

°
LOVE and FRIENDSHIP:

O R,

The FAIR FUGITIVE.

EXEMPLIFIED

In the HISTORIES of two Families of
Distinction, in the West of *England*;

AND INTERSPERS'D

With a Variety of Characters, and several pleasing
and interesting Incidents.

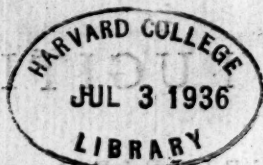
— She never told her Love ;
But let Concealment, like a Worm i' th' Bud,
Feed on her Damask Cheek: She pin'd in Thought;
And, with a green and yellow Melancholy,
She sat, like Patience on a Monument,
Smiling at Grief. —

SHAKESPEAR.

D U D L I N:

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LOVE



L O V E
A N D
F R I E N D S H I P.
A
N O V E L.



C H A P. I.

Some Account of the Author, &c.

AS the following Sheets may serve to entertain, and are wrote with a Regard to Truth, the real Characters only conceal'd under feigned Names; and as the promoting Virtue and discouraging Vice ought to be the End and Design of every Author, Reader, your Indulgence is claim'd: For, in these Memoirs, you will find the Debauchee punish'd, the wanton detected, and, in spite of Art and Villainy, Love and Friendship triumphant.

B

Not

NOT to detain you longer; I was born Heir to about Six Hundred Pounds *per Ann.* which was settled upon me by a Relation of my Mother's, before I saw the Light, and of which I was put in Possession at the Age of Twenty-one. My Mother died before I was six Years old; and my Father, being a man greatly given to his Pleasures, leaving me at School, came to *London*, and lived publicly with a favourite Mistress of his; by whom he had two Children, a Boy and a Girl. I mention them here, as they unexpectedly became known to me afterwards, and have a Share in the following Sheets.

AT School I became intimate with a young Gentleman of great Merit and Fortune, of the Name of *Williams*. We were inseparable Companions; and my Father having no Concern in my Fortune, which was under the Management of a Gentleman near where I was at School, I was seldom favoured with his Sight or Notice. The Gentleman, who might be call'd my Guardian, had a Daughter two Years younger than myself, very pretty; and it was commonly said in the Family, we should make a good Match. When Miss grew about ten Years old, she was sent to an eminent Boarding-School, where she continued 'till she was Sixteen. When she return'd Home, Mr. *Williams* and I were upon setting out for the University; and, as our Regard for each other continued, we were both entered of one College in *Cambridge*.

NOTWITH-

NOTWITHSTANDING what I had often heard, that my Guardian's Daughter and I should make a good Match, I thought nothing more of it, than as a Joke ; and though I had no Dislike to her, yet I felt nothing of Tenderness for her, and treated her only with the civil Respect her Character demanded.

AFTER residing six Months in the University, Mr. *Williams* and I came back into the Country ; and at my Guardian's I found a young Lady, as a Visiter. She was of a good Family, but not opulent ; her chief Dependence being upon a rich old Bachelor, who was her Uncle—Her Age about Seventeen. She was tall, and very genteel ; spoke pertinently, and with great Vivacity—Had fine Eyes, very expressive and full of Fire. If she was not to be allow'd a regular Beauty, by the elegant Judges of Forms, she was certainly an amiable Girl ; capable of giving Pain, and seemed susceptible of feeling it—The little Loves danced in her Eyes, and sported in her auburn Ringlets.

CLARINDA, for by that Name I shall distinguish her, struck me at first Sight. I grew pleased with what she said, and with every Thing she said ; and took more than common Care to endeavour not to displease her. I was now near Nineteen, a Stranger to the Passion of Love ; yet I felt a strange Disquietude, and was pleased with it, and

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indulged it. My Guardian's Daughter, young as she was, observ'd it. She had taken into her Head I was design'd for her; and whether she really had, or thought herself at Liberty to imagine she had, a Love for me, I am not to determine: But she nourished the Thought, and took Pains to make herself agreeable to me. But, alas! my Mind was prepossess'd—*Clarinda* had engaged my Attention; and, I found soon, my Affection. Love soon taught me Cunning, and I saw it was necessary to be more upon the Reserve to *Clarinda*, and a little more particular to Miss *Lovemore*, which was the Name of my Guardian: And my Conduct so well succeeded, that it dissipated the jealous Seeds, which otherwise might have grown up to be very troublesome to me.

As Mr. *Lovemore* was a very good Man, and very indulgent, he was pleased with his Daughter's Companion; and, finding his Home was a more agreeable one to *Clarinda* than her own, he made her a very handsome Compliment, and desired her to consider herself as one of his Family. However, I neglected no Opportunity of expressing my Passion, in the most tender Manner, to *Clarinda*; and was happy, in finding her not averse to listen to it. She told me, she saw many Difficulties—That she knew the Regard Miss *Lovemore* had for me, and would not be charg'd with dealing treacherously by her—That her own Fortune was depend-
ent

ent upon the capricious Humour of an old Uncle ; who, upon the slightest Fault, might easily be persuaded to discard her from having any Support from him—" Yet," she added, " I know this, and am now guilty of " a Fault in hearing you. I know I am doing wrong, but you have an Art of pleasing, when you please ; and I had rather " hear Love from you, than any other—Let " that satisfy you."

THIS was saying enough ; and, as she was not going away, I knew I could find Time enough to press my Suit. We soon return'd to *Cambridge* ; and, as I was fond of Books, my Love, instead of lessening my Inclination for Study, quickened it. I had an Ambition to excel, and to add Knowledge and Merit to my Fortune, in which I was happily encourag'd by Mr. *Williams's* Inclination agreeing with mine ; which has been of that Service to him, that those Hours, at that Age, which he gave to Books instead of Pleasures, now bring him Honour and Respect from a whole County.

I MADE him the Confident of my Love for *Clarinda* ; and her engaging Charms prepossessing every one in her Favour, He encourag'd me to pursue it : And at Times, when I was at my Guardian's, I so successfully pleaded my Passion, that I raised one in her Breast equal to my own. This was not manag'd so secretly, but that Miss *Lovemore* perceiv'd it ; and as her Father, I found, had

led her Inclinations towards me, often saying, It was a Match he well approv'd of; it was no Wonder she gave way to a Passion, she was encourag'd to indulge. Her own Merit and Beauty claimed my Regard, and the great Care with which her Father had manag'd my Fortune demanded a Return. In Point of Prudence, I ought to have made my Addresses to her: But Love and Prudence seldom go Hand in Hand. She saw my Heart was *Clarinda's*; and, without having Recourse to any little Arts to get rid of her Rival, let her Passion prey upon her 'till she grew very ill.

I HAD a fair Opportunity now of putting an End to all Sollicitation. I had no one to compel me to do what I did not chuse; and, if I had honestly avowed my Passion for another, and given, as I ought, the Preference to *Clarinda*, the Pride of Miss *Lovemore* might, in all Probability, have got the better of her Love; and I was no more to be blamed for loving another, than she was for loving me: But I acted a contrary Part, and while I sollicitated *Clarinda* to make me happy, with a thousand Protections of Fidelity, I soothed Miss *Lovemore*, and used every Means for her Recovery. This succeeded too well—Miss *Lovemore* flattered herself I loved her; and *Clarinda*, agitated with a Love as violent as my own, yielded to my pressing Instances. Happy in our stolen Pleasures, we had no Care, but to elude the
Eye

Eye of Suspicion ; and I resolved, the Moment I was at Age, to declare my Passion for, and be married to *Clarinda*.

BUT I knew not how to keep my Resolution, when I was pressed. *Clarinda's* Uncle was taken ill, and he sent for his Niece. She was scarce gone, when Mr. *Lovemore* offered me his Daughter. I forgot my Vows—my Promises—my own Happiness—and, thinking Gratitude demanded my Consent, I gave it. Every Thing was expeditiously got ready ; and, without thinking as I ought upon the base Part I was acting, I was married.

I HAD no Reason to dislike my Wife—She had every good Qualification, and perfectly loved me—yet I reflected I was not at Liberty to have done as I did. This occasioned me to grow melancholy, which only awakened the Tenderness of my Wife, more than her Resentment. She had too much good Sense, tho' I believe she had perceived too much between *Clarinda* and me, to say one reflecting Word ; but treated me with so much Endearment, that I constrained myself to be agreeable to her.

MR. *Williams* was surprized at my Marriage ; and, it was not without some Equivocation, I could clear myself to him. I had told him how much I lov'd *Clarinda*, and he expected I would have had her, and only the Want of a becoming Resolution hinder'd me. I saw myself guilty of Perjury, and the black-

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est Treachery ; yet I had no one to blame, but myself.

My Father had lived profusely in Town, and was dead before I was asked to marry ; and my Guardian had no other Power over me, than the Régard I ought to have paid to his Advice—yet precipitately, at the first Offer, I caught at his Daughter, as if she had been the Object of my Wishes, and abandoned her who in Reality was. However, as my Wife was no Way to blame, I smothered my own Grief ; and lived so contentedly with her, that every one esteem'd us as a happy Couple—My Friend *Williams* married the most considerable Fortune in the Country, and was universally esteemed.

IN the Midst of this Scene, I received a Letter from *Clarinda*, full of sincere Love and Tenderneſs, with an Account, That her Uncle was dead, and had left her his whole Fortune, and kindly inviting me to come to her ; her whole Happineſs, as ſhe expreſſed it, depending upon my Honour. This was a mortifying Stroke to me, and ſet my Conduct before my Eyes in a very reproachable Light. I answered it as well as I could, not endeavouring to excuſe myſelf, but loading myſelf juſtly with all the Guilt I deſerved.

My Father-in-Law died ; and my Wife falling into a Decay, in about two Years after, followed him. I had long before received an Answer to mine from *Clarinda*—Where ſhe blamed herſelf, acquitted me—

But

—But assured me, She should ever mourn her Crime, and withdraw from the World; and that her utmost Care should be, to avoid ever seeing me: Adding, “ My Life, my Fortune, now are burthensome to me!
 “ — Credulous Fool! How could I suffer myself to be persuaded to believe you!
 “ — You may triumph—I must ever mourn my Folly—Mourn your Inconstancy, and my own Credulity—It is just I punish myself.—I have taken a Resolution to bid adieu to the Gaiety of the World, and am preparing to go where neither my Name nor Infamy shall be known—Where your name, I hope, will never reach my Ears.
 “ — Cruel Sacrifice! my Honour was offered up to my Love—I tremble at the Reflection of my Guilt, and bid adieu to Pleasure, the World, and you, for ever.

“ CLARINDA.”

AFTER the Death of my Wife, I made several fruitless Enquiries after *Clarinda*; and grew so melancholy that I could hear nothing of her, that I determined to quit the Country, where her Idea was ever before my Eyes, and hide myself in Town. Accordingly, I took Lodgings in the City, determining to live as retired as possible. I enquired after none of my former Acquaintance, and easily avoided cultivating any new. I unluckily, indeed, frequented a Coffee-House, whither

a young Gentleman came, who had lately had a very considerable Estate left him near mine in the Country. By him I was known, and by his repeated Sollicitation was, by a Sort of engaging Compulsion, drawn into more extensive Acquaintance.

THERE also, at Times, came thither Mr. Reddy, a young Gentleman, whom I knew a little of at College. He was a very familiar Sort of a communicative Person; but, as my meeting him was now and then by Chance, I easily kept from any great Intimacy with him. He knew I had been married, and imputed my Melancholy to the Grief I indulged for the Death of my Wife, which Notion I took no Pains to undeceive him in. But I could not so well refuse being acquainted with Mr. Heartly, which was the Name of the young Gentleman whose Estate lay near mine. He had often pressed me to go to Dinner at Mr. Freeborn's, an eminent Merchant with whom he was Partner, and at last prevailed upon me.

It was sufficient to be his Friend, to receive an hearty *English* Welcome. We sat down, Mr. Freeborn, his Wife and Daughter; Mr. Gayton, a distant Relation of Mrs. Freeborn's, Heartly, and myself. Every Thing was elegant, and the Advantages of Trade very conspicuous; the Manufactures of various Parts of the World, in an ornamental Manner, giving an Air of Grandeur to the Room.

IN Mr. *Freeborn* were to be traced Honesty and Generosity ; plain, yet costly, in his Dress: An open, engaging Aspect expressed the Integrity of his Heart. In his Wife appeared Dignity to command Respect, while her Courtesy made her shew it: She was perfectly well bred. Miss was tall, genteel, and extremely agreeable ; not very handsome, yet alluring : Spoke with good Sense, and great Propriety; and seemed to have been educated, by her modest Deportment, in a different Taste from the prevailing one. Mr. *Gayton* shewed all the Advantages of a modern Education in his Habit and Address. He was too much of the *French*, to be taken for an *Englishman* ; and too little *French*, to pass for a real *Frenchman* : Yet he did not want Sense, and was blessed with great Vivacity, which very well became him ; and, as *Heartly* told me since, except his fashionable Attachment to Dress and Gallantry, was esteemed a Man of Honour. *Heartly* seemed to imitate his Master ; and, it appeared plainly to me, he studied him to copy after. He had a cool Way of Judging, weighing every Thing with Candour : Warm in his Friendship, and from his Heart abhorred a lewd, or mean Action. He might truly be stiled a just, good Man.

It was not difficult to perceive, that Miss was equally admir'd by *Gayton* and *Heartly*. My Friend I observ'd to be more commonly attentive to what she said, and to behave with a respectful Timidity, more than good Breeding

Breeding required ; while *Gayton* shewed himself off with great Spirit, and seemed confidently to demand her Approbation. He approved himself, and acted as if he expected Miss to approve him too ; though, from her Behaviour, it did not appear to me, as if he had any Share of her Esteem : However, my Observations were diverted by the coming of another young Lady, named *Lamour*. She was the very Counter-part of *Gayton*, neither *French* nor *English* ; talked a great deal, without meaning any Thing, and certainly thought herself the finest Girl in Being : And as to be at the Top of the Mode was her Taste, no one so unfashionable as to be out of it could expect any Regard from her. *Gayton* was the striking Figure in her Eye, and drew all the Attention, her Self-Love could spare, to himself.

As I was in no Manner interested, I had Leisure to make these few Observations, which appeared afterwards to be very justly founded—The Beau and the Bell were soon intimate—But, as it was Time for me to retire, I took my Leave.

C H A P. II.

*An Account of Mr. Gayton and Miss Lamour.
Some private Discourse with Mr. Freeborn.
Hear of Mr. Williams, &c.*

THE next Morning *Heartily* and I met, and began to talk over the Occurrences of the Day before ; and particularly I was inquisitive

inquisitive concerning Miss *Lamour* and *Gayton*. Miss, I understood, was an Orphan, and lived with an old Maiden Aunt; who was as remarkable, notwithstanding her grey Hairs, for keeping to the Pink of the Mode as herself—That Mr. *Freeborn* was her Guardian, which occasioned her frequent Visits to that Family: Yet,” said *Heartly*, “ I by no Means approve her Ways, nor should I think her a fit Companion for a Daughter of my own; and though I believe her modest, yet I think it is more owing to the Men, than her own Discretion, that she continues so. She has so strong an Inclination to be at all public Places, and upon Parties of Pleasure, that, if she maintains her Character and marries, she will be a very expensive Wife; and is so sunk in fashionable Indolence, that she is quite ignorant of every Family Duty. She behaves with that bold Assurance, as I cannot approve of; and it is with Pleasure I perceive Miss *Freeborn* avoids going any where with her, as much as is in her Power.”

I ANSWER'D, I saw enough to convince me, he was greatly interested in Miss *Freeborn*'s Behaviour, tho' he was not in Miss *Lamour*'s. He confess'd, he found something so engaging in that young Lady, that he could perceive he had more than Esteem for her: “ Tho' she does not know it, nor have I yet,” he said, “ declared any Passion for her: Marriage is for Life, and I must be
“ assur'd

“ assur’d her Conduct is the Effect of her
 “ good Sense, and not in Obedience to the
 “ Will of her Parents, before she shall.
 “ I have Opportunities enough to say any
 “ Thing to her; yet, tho’ it is with some
 “ Pain to myself, I shall stay some Time,
 “ before I express my Mind to her. As to
 “ young *Gayton*, you have seen him. He
 “ is rich, and has many good Qualities. I
 “ believe he likes Miss *Freeborn*, but he is
 “ so engaged in Gallantry, that he thinks it
 “ Time enough to get him a Wife. He
 “ waited upon Miss *Lamour* Home, and in-
 “ tends to visit there often: And I am mis-
 “ taken, if he does not find her for his
 “ Turn, if he continues long among her
 “ Followers. He is very inconstant, and
 “ capable to make one of her Disposition
 “ uneasy.”

WHILE we were upon this Subject *Gayton* came in, and accosted us in an easy, familiar Manner—Took two or three Billets out of his Pocket, read them carelessly over, tore them to Pieces, drank his Chocolate, and went his Way; but not without letting me know, he should rank me for the future among his Acquaintance. As it was likely I should be often in his Way, I thanked him for the Honour, though I did not entertain that Opinion of him Mr. *Heartly* did: On the contrary, I deemed him a Person who did every Thing with Design, and, in my own Mind, conceived a strong Prejudice against him.

As

As I became, through *Heartly's* Means, very intimate at Mr. *Freeborn's*, I observed *Gayton* to be more than ordinary careful of his Dress. He was always very rich in his Cloaths when he appeared there, and I saw he dressed at Miss *Freeborn*, as imagining a Person of her Age might be allur'd to regard him through his Finery; but as it seemed to have no Effect upon her Behaviour, as she did not appear to be any Way particularly pleased with his Company, I was easy as to her; especially as she was always ready to partake of any Diversion where *Heartly* was to be present, and avoided, as much as possible, going any where with *Gayton* and Miss *Lamour*.

I HAD discovered he made frequent Visits to Miss *Lamour*, without any Regard to the Time of the Day, and that they were often Abroad together. I one Day had an Opportunity to take Notice to Miss *Freeborn*, of the Intimacy between her two Friends—"My Friends!" she answered briskly, "you should have said my Acquaintance; for I have not that Opinion of either of them, as to rank them among my Friends. I think I know them both; yet I would have no one, whose good Opinion I would merit, think I esteem either of them." This was a frank Declaration; but we were diverted from the Subject, by the coming Home of her Father and *Heartly*.

"SIR,"

“SIR,” said Mr. *Freeborn*, “I always regard Mr. *Heartly*’s Friends, but I desire I may stile you mine; and be as free in calling upon me, as you would upon him.” These sort of Compliments over, Miss introduced the Discourse I had with her concerning *Gayton* and Miss *Lamour*—“I have heard something about them,” her Father answered; “but my Charge is almost over—I would not readily think her lost, but her Conduct is blameable—I spoke to Mr. *Gayton* about her, but he made very slight of what I said.” Says Mrs. *Freeborn*, “You have done your Part—you have made the most of her Fortune; and, whatever may be the Consequence of her fashionable Education, she has only her Aunt to thank—It was contrary to your Way of Judging—Tho’ I am far from thinking any Harm of her.” We were all of one Mind, though it was very soon we had sufficient Reason to alter our Way of thinking.

AFTER Dinner Miss and her Mamma went out, and *Heartly* was obliged to dispatch some foreign Letters, so that Mr. *Freeborn* and I were left together—when he said, “Sir, I desire your Secrecy and Opinion of what I am about, in Confidence, to say to you—I have only that Daughter you have seen—When I spoke to *Gayton* about Miss *Lamour*, he answered, He thought nothing about her; and, to convince me of his sincerity, asked my Leave to visit my
 “Daughter.”

“ Daughter. I told him, it was too soon to
 “ think of settling her, but he knew my
 “ House was open to him. He is rich, yet
 “ I cannot think it will do—I cannot observe
 “ she any Way likes him; and, tho’ I would
 “ use my Authority to prevent her Marriage
 “ against my Consent, yet I would not compel
 “ her against her own.—But there is a Man
 “ I have no objection against—I have had a
 “ Mind to offer him my Alliance; but then
 “ I thought again, if he liked her, he might
 “ think himself sure of my Consent, if he
 “ asked it; and that has prevented me still,
 “ as I should be sorry to have my Offer re-
 “ fused—*Heartly* is the Gentleman I would
 “ chuse beyond all I know.—What do you
 “ think of your Friend? Is he any Way pre-
 “ engaged in his Affection?”

To all which I replied, That I did not
 know Mr. *Heartly* to be any Way engaged
 —That I had heard him speak much more
 in Praise of Miss, than any one else; and,
 by what I observed in his Conduct, I did not
 think it likely that he would engage in any
 Courtship, without his Advice and Approba-
 tion—That it was not impossible, that if he
 liked Miss, he might chuse to stay a little
 longer, as she was so young—That *Gayton*,
 however rich, was not a proper Husband for
 her.—As to my Advice, it was to let the
 Matter rest; and, as *Heartly* was delicate in
 his Sentiments, he might be willing to think
 it would be agreeable to Miss he should apply
 to

to him : And, as she was improving every Day, it would not be long before he would be satisfied.

To all which he assented; and again enjoining me Secrecy, we parted : And, indeed, in a very lucky Moment for me; for I had scarce got out of Doors, when I met an acquaintance, a Clergyman. He had some Time, through the Favour of my good Friend Mr. *Williams*, enjoyed a good Vicarage. From him I learned, that *Williams* was almost angry, at my not coming to him; that he had been in Town, and sought me, in vain, sorrowing; that his own Income was above Two Hundred Pounds *per Ann.* that he had been every where to enquire after me, he could think of, and was obliged to go out of Town the next Day—"Well, well," says I, "I will accompany you Part of the Way; and you shall have Letters to set all to Rights, and see me sooner again than you are aware of." Accordingly, the next Day I went with him to *Staines*; and as it was after Dinner before we set out, it was just Night when we came to our Inn.

C H A P. III.

The Author accidentally makes two very great Discoveries.

WE were scarce got into a Room, before there came whirling into the Yard a Phaeton, and in it *Gayton* and Miss *Lamour*; and

and, to my great Surprize, attended by Mr. Reddy. I had no Intention to let them know I was there, so kept close. I could not persuade myself to believe *Gayton* had married her, nor could I conceive how *Reddy* came into their Company, nor of what Use he was to be in a criminal Correspondence: However, mere Accident let me into the whole Scheme; and proved to me, what I before thought, that *Gayton* did nothing without Design.

WHEN I went to Bed, it was not long before I heard them come running up Stairs, and wish each other good Night. Miss, I found, was to lie next me; and the Chamber-Maid had no sooner gone down, than *Gayton* came softly into her Room. He asked her, How she liked *Reddy*? She answered, He was well enough—"Because," says *Gayton*, "you must marry him." "Marry him!" she exclaimed; "I marry him!" "Mr. *Gayton*, what do you mean? Are these your Vows and Promises! I marry that Fellow! No, I assure you, you shall do me Justice—I have Friends shall compel you to do me Justice—Marry him, indeed!" "My Dear," he replied, "do not put yourself in a Passion—I say again you must marry him—We have play'd the Fool long enough; and, as I have a Regard for your Reputation, you must consent." "I won't consent—" "I won't—You are a Villain," she cried. "Come,

“Come, my Dear,” he answered coolly,
 “you must comply; you shall find me still
 “the same. I have asked your Guardian’s
 “Consent to court his Daughter: He has
 “not deny’d me, and it is your Interest to
 “marry him—Consider else what a Figure
 “you will make—The sooner you are mar-
 “ried, the better.”

SHE stood out a long while, but the Fear of being expos’d to the World’s Censure prevailed—This, I thought, is a Discovery indeed—Matters go swimmingly—But the Secret is in very wrong Hands.

As my Friend was to proceed on his Journey early, we were out in the Morning before those, I did not want to see, were stirring. After riding a little Way with him, I took my Leave of him, resolving to go Home through *Surry*. The last Night’s Adventure sufficiently employed my Mind, and in what Manner I had best act took up my Thoughts. I was in no Apprehension of Mr. *Gayton*’s carrying Miss *Freeborn*; nor had I any Business to detect Miss *Lamour*, nor hinder Mr. *Reddy* of a Wife: So at last I came to this Resolution, to say nothing about it, unless something unforeseen should compel me.

THIS being settled, while I was viewing and enjoying the different beautiful Prospects of the Country, at the End of a little Village, near *Cobham*, I met *Clarinda*, attended by a Servant-Maid. I was covered with Confusion, and unable to speak. She knew me—
 She

She coloured—She made Haste from me ; and, before I recovered myself, was gone, I knew not whither. I enquir'd in the Village, in vain—Two or three I saw, knew nothing of her ; all I could learn was, that some Strangers lodged at the House near the Church. Thither I went—Asked for her—was answered, No such Person lodged there—There were only Miss *Steddy*, and her Maid.—Miss *Steddy* ! I knew no such Person—I was sure I had seen *Clarinda*, and the Reflection of the Injury I had done her covered me with Shame. I blamed myself for not speaking to her—It was now in my Power to offer her some Sort of Atone-ment, and I could not find her—I had her, and let her foolishly go again.

ALL my Enquiry being fruitless, I proceeded much dejected to Town ; and, being early in the Evening, went directly to Mr. *Freeborn's*, where I found only *Heartly* and Miss at Home ; and was immediately informed, That Mr. *Gayton* had taken Miss *Lamour* out for an Airing, and near *Hammer-smith* had the Misfortune to be over-turn'd ; that his Arm was broke, and Miss was come Home greatly frightened and bruised, and gone very ill to Bed : But not a Word of being out all Night together ; that, I perceived, was kept a Secret from this Family.

As I imagined Mr. *Freeborn*, in Consequence of what he had said, had, and intended often to leave his Daughter and *Heartly* together,

together, I staid but a short Time. The next Day *Heartly* told me, he had passed his Evening very agreeably; that he admired her good Sense, and fully perswaded himself her Behaviour was entirely conformable to her own Judgment; and her own, without any studied Art: "And I am," said he, "charged by Miss, to desire you to be so free as to advise her upon any Occasion you may think necessary, and she expects it from your Sincerity." I answered, I was oblig'd to her; but I thought she had rather oblige him by following his Advice, tho' she ask'd it of me: But I could see nothing, in her present Conduct, that stood in Need of any Director. "Well," says he, "I believe I shall soon speak to her Father: I do not think he will refuse her to me, he has always treated me with so partial a Preference."

THE coming in of *Reddy* prevented any Reply; who told me, in his familiar Way, of the unhappy Accident which had happen'd to a good Friend of his, and to one of the most accomplish'd young Ladies in the World. "I was," says he, "but just introduc'd to her Acquaintance, and this unlucky Affair may prevent my seeing her this Fort-night—I am so unfortunate, to meet with so many Disappointments." I asked, How long he had known Mr. *Gayton*? "Oh," says he, "some Time; and, meeting him at this Coffee-House the other Day, he proffered
" me

“ me his Service; and carrying me to a
 “ young Lady, recommended her to my
 “ Notice for a Wife, and generously offered
 “ me all the Assistance in his Power towards
 “ farthering my Happiness.”

I COULD not help smiling, to think how artfully *Gayton* had baited for a Fool, and how readily the Fool snapped at the Bait. “ Well, “ Mr. *Reddy*, I hope,” I said, “ if it happens “ agreeable to your Wishes, you will give “ your Friends Leave to wish you Joy; “ though I can scarce believe one of so gay a “ Disposition as Miss *Lamour* will marry, unless to one as modish as herself.” “ Many “ unexpected Things happen,” he answered. “ It is very true,” said *Heartly*, “ and that “ will be very unexpected: Though, Sir, “ you will have a modish Wife, with a very “ genteel Fortune. It was thought, Mr. “ *Gayton* intended her for himself—Their “ Tastes are so similar.” “ No, I assure “ you, Sir,” reply’d *Reddy*, “ I know Mr. “ *Gayton* intends to address himself to “ a Merchant’s Daughter—I forgot his Name.”

I OBSERV’d *Heartly* to redden, and turned the Discourse. I could have at once dissipated any Uneasiness this Account might give him; but I was enjoined Secrecy by Mr. *Freeborn*, and it was Time enough yet. However, all this Time my own Thoughts run on *Clarinda*, and I determined I would again go in Search of her. I had seen her, I was positive; and
 I was

24 LOVE and FRIENDSHIP.

I was resolv'd to find her—So taking my Leave of *Heartly*, and pretending Business in the Country, I set out that very Afternoon.

WHEN I was upon the Road, I had Leisure to reflect upon the Folly of my Undertaking. I plainly saw, that, by her taking the Opportunity of my Confusion to get from me, she had no Mind to renew any Acquaintance with me. I could not conceive, but, at Times, she had made some Enquiry after me, and could be no Stranger to the Death of my Wife: That then she might be married, and it was wrong in me to disturb her again: Yet, upon the Whole, as I seldom gave up a Resolution, I went on upon this Wild-Goose Chace.

I CHOSE as proper a Place as I could for my Residence, and as assiduously as I could begun my Search. Every little Village round was by me narrowly inspected, all to no Purpose—I could hear of no one, like whom I wanted; but Miss *Steddy*, and she was gone to Town. *Clarinda's* Maiden-Name was not *Steddy*; and, if she was married, it would not be Miss. I had no Notion *Clarinda* was at Liberty to assume, where she could not be known, what Name she pleas'd: That never entered into my Head, so I pass'd away a Fortnight fruitlessly.

At last I gave her over; my Pride suggesting to me, if she had no Mind to be found, I only indulg'd her Vanity by thinking about her, and taking so much Pains
after

after her—and I instantly resolved to pay Mr. *Williams* a sudden Visit. Thither, greatly out of Humour with myself, I went. My Arrival spread Joy through that Family. My good Friend and his Wife loaded me with Caresses; and, in his Neighbourhood, I found several of my *Cambridge* Acquaintance, so that I passed my Time very agreeably.

I WAS at one of my Friend's Houses upon a sporting Party, when, by a little Incident, I occasion'd great Satisfaction. The Matter was this—This Gentleman had a Sister very handsome, and the Father had been in a Treaty for her sometime privately with a neighbouring 'Squire, who happen'd to pay his Visit, when I was there. He was an extraordinary Figure, of very ordinary Understanding, and, as if all 'Squires were by Charter obliged to make their Dogs their Companions, he brought two Favourites with him.

THE Occasion of his Visit was soon known, by the Father's peremptory Command to his Daughter, to look upon him as one he had made Choice of to be her Husband. In vain my Friend and his Mother endeavoured to persuade the old Gentleman from his Resolution—it was preaching to the Wind—He was positive and passionate, and the Family in great Confusion. Miss had a young Lady with her, a distant Relation, upon a Visit—These, the Mother, and an old Aunt, were all in Tears in one Room, while

the Father and intended Son-in-Law were carousing in another.

THE Girls had played my Friend and I a little Trick the Night before, and we had meditated a Design to be even with them; accordingly we took this Opportunity, and, getting into their Chamber, drilled a small Hole in the Jordan. It happen'd, the 'Squire was to stay there a Day or two, and their Chamber was design'd for him to lie in. As he had drank pretty plentifully, he had Occasion pretty much for the Jordan. In the Morning we went and tapped at the Door, but could get no Answer, only heard Somebody snoring very much: However, we were soon told who lay there, and why; and we told what Prank we had intended them. Tears were soon turned in Laughter, and we were all upon the Titter. At last Miss's Maid was ordered to call him to Breakfast, and to watch his coming out of his Room; and, if it happen'd as we expected, she was to blow it among all the Servants.

THIS she executed very well; and, finding the Room all afloat, put it round, to the no small Merriment of the whole Family; every one of which knew it, but the Master. The 'Squire eat his Breakfast in great Confusion, rightly imagining our Mirth was at his Expence; and the loud Laughs he heard in the Kitchen convinced him he was become the Jest of all. In short, he took a *French Leave*; for, getting to the Stable, he got

got his Horse, whistled for his Dogs, and made off, and was never to be persuaded to return to renew his Addresses in that Family. Thus happily and unexpectedly, what was intended as a Joke among ourselves prevented a fine young Lady being sacrificed to an Hog-Trough.——But it was Time for me to return to *London*, which I did accordingly.

CHAP. IV.

The Author meets again with Clarinda: And other Matters of Consequence.

IN my Way to *London*, my Mind run strongly on going to *Windfor*. I had been often there, so it was not Curiosity, but some secret Impulse forced me thither: And the Morning after I came there, rambling about the Park, at the Bottom of *Queen Elizabeth's Walk*, I found *Clarinda*, reading upon a Bench. “So, Madam,” I said, “I owe that to mere Chance now, my Industry could not obtain else-where.” She seemed greatly confused; and answered, Had she expected to be found there, she would have disappointed me, and taken other Measures. “I know very well the Pains,” continued she, “you have taken to find me, but it was not my Intention you should. I was determined never to be in your Company more — My Peace of Mind is lost — I have suffered enough by you: And if you

“ have any Regard for me, or would have
 “ me preserve any for you, permit me to go
 “ about my Business, and trouble me no
 “ more.” I replied, “ My dear *Clarinda*,
 “ the Pains I have taken after you suffi-
 “ ciently shew my Regard for you. The
 “ Reflection of my own Injustice to you once,
 “ and the pleasing Thought of having it in
 “ my Power to make you some Atonement,
 “ occasioned my Search—Tho’ I owe my pre-
 “ sent good Fortune only to Chance.”
 “ Make me Atonement!” she answered,
 scornfully; “ do it then, by obeying me—
 “ Follow me not, I charge you:” And, rise-
 ing from her Seat, walked away hastily to
 the Lodge.

I THOUGHT it best to let her have her
 Way, and, as I had discovered her Abode, I
 should find Opportunity enough to open my
 Intentions more to her; not in the least doubt-
 ing, but I should be able to re-ignite her
 former Passion for me, notwithstanding her
 present Resentment: Accordingly, I walked
 back to *Windsor*, and amused myself there
 the rest of the Day.

THE next Morning I went into the Park
 again, but waited two Hours in vain for a
 Sight of her: At last I went to the Lodge,
 and found all close shut up there; when,
 perceiving a Gardener cross the Yard, I en-
 quired of him concerning her, and fully de-
 scribed her to him. He assured me he knew
 no such Person, nor was there any one in that
 House,

House, but a Maid-Servant to take care of it: "But, Sir," says he, "Yesterday Morning a pretty Gentlewoman begged me to let her through; for she had been, she said, insulted in the Park, and she would not venture there again one while; which I accordingly did, but whither she went I know not."

So then, I thought, she has given me the Slip once more, and I must e'en go back as wise as I came: Yet, as I had told her it was in my Power to make her some Atonement, I could not account for her Behaviour. I knew the Goodness of her Disposition—but then my Pride informed me, Money might alter her; and, as it was in her Power to vex me, she had taken the Resolution to do it: So I gave her over and went for *London*, resolving within myself never to trouble my Head about her more.

WHEN I came to Town, I found Things much as I had left them; only Mrs. *Freeborn* and an Aunt of *Heartly's* were dead, and he had received a great Addition to his Fortune. *Gayton* and Miss *Lamour* were perfectly recovered, and she was more than ordinarily gay. Mr. *Reddy* was very assiduous in his Addresses to her, which she received with the utmost Contempt, and played him off with great Freedom; which he bore with great Resignation, as he had really conceived a violent Passion for her. I saw her often at Mr. *Freeborn's*, and found, that, through Mr. *Reddy's*

Means, she and *Gayton* knew my Story. She rallied me much upon my Constancy; yet I could not tell why, tho' I knew the bad hypocritical Life she led, I found myself interested in her doing well. I was assured she was not capable of inspiring any Passion in me for her, even a criminal one: But then I had a Regard for her, I could not account for.

FROM Mr. *Freeborn* I learned, that since Mr. *Heartly* had received so great a Windfall, he had resolved not to offer him his Daughter; but had given Mr. *Gayton* his Consent to make his Addresses to her, though he had told him, she should never be disposed of without her free Consent.

I COULD not perceive any Alteration in *Heartly's* Passion; and, indeed, he one Day told me, he wished he had not deferred so long asking Mr. *Freeborn's* Consent; "But now," says he, "I cannot bear it—It would look as if I commanded it—*Gayton* is my Rival—I do not think Miss likes him; but I must be sure she likes me, else I shall be still silent."

I took the Liberty to tell him, That I thought him very whimsical, to make Difficulties where there were none; nor could I conceive in what Manner he expected Miss to act—But he would have his own Way. Miss and I were very intimate, and I discovered so many good Qualities in her, that I was sorry I was the Confident of *Heartly's* Passion.

Passion. I believe, had I been ignorant of that, I should have endeavoured to recommend myself; and especially, when I was so nettled at *Clarinda's* Insolence, as I termed it in my own Thoughts—Yet it was visible Miss was uneasy, and I one Day was free enough to ask her the Cause; telling her, it was by her own Desire, that I might offer her my Advice. She readily answered, She was sorry her Papa had given *Gayton* Leave to visit her, upon the Terms he had; “Be-
“ cause,” says she, “ I am obliged to give
“ him more of my Company than I chuse,
“ and to go more Abroad with him than
“ suits my Inclination.” “ Begging your
“ Pardon then, Miss,” I answered, “ that
“ does not seem a sufficient Reason to me,
“ to make you uneasy.” “ Well then,”
she replied, “ Mr. *Heartly* treats me in a
“ more reserved Manner than he used, and
“ I am not conscious of having done any
“ Thing to deserve it—I would prefer his
“ Esteem to that of any Person’s upon
“ Earth.”

I TOLD her, I thought that was only owing to his good Breeding, as I was confident he had the greatest Regard for her Merit. Miss *Lamour* came running in, and said; “ Well,
“ well, now I have found out your Lodging,
“ I am determined to come and visit you.
“ I have been so pestered this Hour with a
“ whining Story of Love—Some Men make
“ Love very oddly—And then the Wretch

“ seems so much in Earnest, and vows so
 “ much Constancy, that, if I was to have
 “ him, I must tie him to my Apron-String.
 “ Lard ! to have one’s Husband always with
 “ one !—It is so unfashionable—If ever I
 “ have him, it will be because I cannot en-
 “ dure him.”

Miss *Freeborn* said, She thought she gave an unaccountable Reason : Adding, “ But, as I am acquainted with you, I do not mind all you are pleased to say—I dare say you would not have us believe you always.” “ That is very true,” she answered ; “ but come, tell me how you like *Gayton* ?” “ That I will, when I know myself,” replied Miss *Freeborn* ; “ but it requires a good deal of Thought, to tell you my Sentiments upon that Subject.”

As to myself, I said little ; not being able to account for her extraordinary Gaiety, any more than I could for her using *Reddy* so ill, whom she had agreed to marry. I had but one Way to resolve myself, and that was by concluding, her Fright, when she was overthrown in the Phaeton, had occasioned her to miscarry : Then, as there was no immediate Use to be made of him, she could play with him as she pleased.

Miss *Lamour* could not stay, and insisted upon my seeing her Home—“ You visit here constantly,” says she, “ and never have had the Manners to come to see me.” I had my Reasons for complying with her Request,

quest, so suffered myself to be prevailed on; tho' I almost repented it, for her modish Dress drew the Eyes of every one upon us, and exposed her to some low Jest's from the Vulgar: But she took no Notice, only saying, "Come along, come along; never mind them."

AT last we reached the Habitation, which was in a little neat Court; and I was introduced to the Maiden-Aunt, who had had the bringing-up of Miss, and under whose immediate Inspection she had gained her most accomplish'd Endowments. She seem'd near Fifty; but excuse me, Reader, had more the Appearance of an old Mistress, than an old Maid. When she knew me to be Mr. A—, she was very inquisitive after my Family; which I found she had known very well, as she did every Body at the Court-End of the Town, with all their publick and private History. She was very satirical; and, could I have brought myself to have had any great Opinion of her Veracity, I must have entertain'd a most scandalous Notion of several Persons of great Reputation. She seem'd not over cautious in her own Behaviour, and both she and Miss made so free with the Bottle, that after that Time I often consider'd Miss as a little forward.

I PROMISED to call another Time, and went to find out *Hearthly*, being almost in for it myself. I found him alone, and he had been inform'd by Miss *Freeborn* where I had

dined. We were both of Opinion, that the Aunt was not a Maiden one. I ingenuously told him the Concern Miss *Freeborn* was in upon his Account—"I know it," he said: "As we dined alone, I behaved with more Openness than I have lately done; which, in a very obliging Manner, she let me know she observed, and was pleased with; and we are almost come to an Eclaircissement." This was very agreeable to me, and banished every Thought of her from my Breast—A Man of real Honour is the proper Husband for a Woman of real Worth.

UPON Enquiry after Mr. *Freeborn*, "He and Miss," said he, "are gone to visit Miss *Steddy*, a young Lady whose Fortune is under our Management; and, as he had some Accounts to settle with her, he has taken Miss with him. I have never seen her, but he gives her the Character of a very reserved, prudent Person, and always takes upon him to settle with her himself."

HE then ask'd me, If I would take a Ride with him to see his Mother and Sister? Saying, it was some Time since he had seen them, occasioned by settling his own Affairs; but, if I would go with him, he would be obliged to me—That they had lived very retired, but he propos'd now to remove them into the Country to his own House.

WHILE we were thus chatting, Mr. and Miss *Freeborn* came Home—"So, Sir," says he,

he, " I have been with a Lady, one Miss
 " *Steddy*, who seems to know you. It some-
 " how happen'd, your Name was dropped
 " in Conversation, and she catch'd at it;
 " and, by what I can find, you and she
 " have been acquainted." " Indeed, Sir,"
 I answered, " I know no one of the Name;
 " tho' it may be possible she may have heard
 " of me, by some such Means as Mr. *Gayton*
 " has—There are more Mr. *Reddy's* in the
 " World than one." Well," said Miss,
 " she speaks in such handsome Terms of
 " you, as appear to be from her own Know-
 " ledge." " I am obliged to the Lady,
 " Miss," I replied, " but I really never
 " knew one of the Name—I am not forget-
 " ful." " She is now going into the Coun-
 " try," said Mr. *Freeborn*, for a short Time;
 " after which she promises to pay my Daugh-
 " ter a Visit, and so far it is more than pro-
 " bable you will see her." This Evening
 was greatly to my Satisfaction; every Body
 seem'd pleas'd, and particularly *Hearily*, who
 seem'd to take great Pleasure in constantly
 addressing himself to Miss *Freeborn*, and it
 was late before I got Home.

IN the Morning I was surpriz'd, before I
 was well up, with a Visit from Miss *Lamour*
 —Indeed she came—crying—" I am as
 " good as my Word, you see—Well, I
 " could almost like you myself; but you are
 " so grave—I dare say you carry this Pic-
 " ture to Bed with you" (catching up the
 Picture

Picture of my Wife, which hung at my Bed's Head)—“ It is very handsome—I do not think myself Half so handsome—.” “ You are partial, Miss,” I answered, “ to yourself; I dare say *Gayton* thinks you handsomer a thousand Times, and *Reddy* believes you more than an Angel.” “ Oh Lard !” she reply'd, laughing, “ I can tell you something—After you was gone Yesterday, *Reddy* came, and pressed me to take a Walk with him—So away we went—and a Fellow says to him, *Sir, what does that French Miss cost you a Week ?* *Reddy* struck him; and the Fellow has so well maul'd him, that he will not be able to stir this Week—I could kill myself with Laughing—Good Bye tho', I promised to call upon *Gayton* this Morning—I will call again one Morning or another. You know the Way to our House now—come as often as you can”—and away she flung.

So, thought I, if I had resented all was said to her, I might have been served as *Reddy* was, and as well laughed at. However, I resolved to visit him, and found him indeed pretty handsomely beaten; and scheming in what Manner to find out the Fellow, and punish him—I bestowed my Pity upon him, and went to *Gayton's*, where, I believe, I was unwelcome; that Morning having been, or I am greatly mistaken, an Appointment. From thence we all went to Mr.

Freeborn's;

Freeborn's; and, *Heartly* being gone out, I left them, and went after him to the Coffee-House—"After you left us last Night," says he, "I was informed, That Mr. *Freeborn* thinks you and Miss *Steddy* would "make a good Match—What do you say "to it?" "I can say nothing to it," I answered; "I have not seen the Lady—" "Though I have no Intention to engage "myself again." "You may guess who "informed me," he reply'd, "and she is "mightily for it. But I expect you will go "with me To-morrow; I will call you at "Eight, if I should not see you before."

I TOLD him I had engaged myself for the rest of the Day, but I would be ready to his Time. I had a Mind for a small Country Excursion, and went, as I had propos'd, to *Hampstead*; where, in the Afternoon, came *Gayton* and a Woman of the Town, young and pretty. We drank a Flask of Claret together, and I left them there; and, the next Morning, *Heartly* and I set out.

C H A P. V.

The Author's Visit to Heartly's Mother. Her Story—And sundry other Matters.

WE went the same Road I did on my Search for *Clarinda*, came to the same Village, and stopped at the very House, by the Church, I had enquir'd at. Only Mrs. *Heartly* was at Home, her Daughter being

being gone out for the Day. She received her Son very tenderly. *Heartly* informed her, she was soon to remove, and whither; "Aye," says she, "many a good Month have I pass'd in that House, but never then thought it would be my Son's. My Dear," added she, "I have taken a young Lady and her Maid to board with me; but they are, for a few Days, in London. She is acquainted with Mr. *Free-born*—Her Name is *Steddy*." He answered, "She is a very deserving young Lady, and will be an agreeable Companion for my Sister." He then asked, If Mr. *Fainall* continued his Visits? She replied, She believed that Affair was all off, at which he was well pleas'd.

It was my turn to answer a Number of Questions, and I gave her a full History of what had happen'd in the Country while I knew it, and concluded I had a Right then to ask some in my Turn.—She very readily gave me the following Account.—"My Father, who died in very good Circumstances, left only two Children, my Brother *Heartly* and myself. To him he left most of what he had, to me only One Thousand Pounds; but strongly, on his Death-Bed, recommended to my Brother a farther Provision for me, as his Endeavours in Trade succeeded. We had very rich Relations; so that, though my Brother's

“ ther’s House was my Home, I was seldom there.

“ My Brother grew very rich, more though
 “ by good Legacies, than any great Success
 “ he had in Business. I had many good
 “ Offers, as being the only Sister to so
 “ thriving a Man, and myself esteemed, at
 “ that Time of Life, very handsome. Some
 “ of my Suitors were greatly advanced in
 “ Years from myself; those my Brother, for
 “ his own Interest I can only suppose, favoured most—But my Consent was still
 “ deny’d to all his Recommendations. I
 “ had indeed, in my Mind, fixed my Esteem
 “ upon a distant Relation of the Family,
 “ who lived with him as Clerk, and was of
 “ the same Name; though I had Prudence
 “ enough not to let him perceive it, hoping
 “ on still that my Brother would provide
 “ farther for him, that it might not appear
 “ a Meanness in me to give him my Hand.
 “ But Love showed through my Pride; and
 “ he, finding I refused every Offer made to
 “ me, offered me himself, in a Manner that
 “ would have disarm’d my Anger, even if
 “ I had not been prejudic’d in his Favour:
 “ However, he press’d still his Courtship,
 “ and I surrender’d to his Merit. He was
 “ then, what my Son is now; and every
 “ Virtue he has was the Quality of his Father.

“ My Marriage soon discovered itself, and
 “ my Brother, far from promoting my Husband’s

“band’s Interest, dismissed him. Indeed
 “he was so just, as to a Tittle to fulfil my
 “Father’s Will, and paid him the Thou-
 “sand Pounds. Had my Brother stopped
 “here, he had done me no material Preju-
 “dice; but he gave out, that he never in-
 “tended to marry, and only wished to have
 “seen me settled to his Mind, that my
 “Children might have enjoyed his Labours.
 “Believe him, who will; I did not: Yet it
 “debarred a good while my Husband’s
 “getting another Clerkship.

“I now had two Children, and let me
 “do my Husband the Justice to own, he
 “would never consent to break into the
 “Principal of my Money, but we content-
 “ed ourselves to make the Interest support
 “us. My Brother prevented many of my
 “Relations even from seeing me, ’till an
 “old Gentlewoman in the Country, who
 “was pretty rich, and a Relation of my
 “Husband’s, hearing of my Brother’s Be-
 “haviour, said, She thought Mr. *Hearthly*
 “gave himself great Airs; his Sister had
 “married as good as himself, though not so
 “rich. This being told my Brother, he
 “waited on her, and made his own plausi-
 “ble Tale good; assuring her, at the same
 “Time, he would take Care to provide for
 “my Children, and my Fortune was suffi-
 “cient for me and my Husband—That he
 “had intended great Things for him; but
 “it would be encouraging young Fellows
 “of

“ of no Fortune to insinuate themselves into Families, to the great Uneasiness and Distress of many, if he should countenance him, after what he had done.

“ THIS prevented her good Intention towards us; and, at her Death, she left him a very large Legacy, only charging him to remember his Promise—But by this Time he had married himself, and a very considerable Fortune his Wife brought him. She was really a good Woman; and, through her Influence, more than the Remembrance of his Promise, he took my Son from me, and provided for him, as you have heard. He and my dear Husband died much at a Time. He left only one Daughter; and, at his Death, left my Son, what he never expected he would enjoy.

“ BUT most People thought, that even that distant Fortune was put in his View more to prevent his Wife’s marrying again, than out of good Will to his Nephew. He wanted to keep them dependent even after his Death: However, Mrs. *Heartly* was very good to me, and my dear Niece never failed putting her Mother constantly in Mind of me. I used often to be at the House, my Son now tells me I am to go to again; but never saw my Sister-in-Law, since her second Marriage: And, indeed, my Son’s good Behaviour bringing him into Partnership
“ with

“ with Mr. *Freeborn*, I have constantly since resided here.”

IN the Evening we return'd Home, *Heartly* having desired his Mother to come to Town as soon as she could, that she might go into the Country and put all Things in Order, before she removed for good.

WE continued the same Round—*Gayton* continu'd his Visits, but *Heartly* was the Favourite with Miss *Freeborn*—But, suddenly, *Gayton* had urgent Business in the Country, and we all observed Miss *Lamour* to be very much altered. She seemed very grave, and very ill: When it struck into my Mind, that *Gayton* had given her a Proof of his Inconstancy, and, as I really was somehow interested in her Favour, I pity'd her; but was at a Loss how I could serve her, in such a critical Affair, without discovering to her I was sensible what ailed her. However I persuaded her, that her great Spirits were more than her Constitution could support; and, if she did not take Care, she would get into a Consumption—That if she pleased, I would prescribe for her without Fee or Reward, upon Condition she would confine herself a little; but that I expected she would strictly follow my Directions, for I had studied a little Physick, and I would not willingly lose my first Patient, thro' Neglect.

THIS was said very seriously; and as she knew she was bad, though ignorant, I believe, of what was the Disorder, and Miss
Freeborn

Freeborn saying, if I was to order any Thing for her, she had so good an Opinion of my Judgment she would take it, she consented, and promised to do what I requir'd of her ; upon which I promised to wait on her in the Evening.

I CONCLUDED, *Gayton* was gone out of Town, lest by any Means his Disorder should be discovered, which he knew would at once put an End to his Visits at Mr. *Freeborn's*: Accordingly, I went to an eminent Gentleman of the Faculty, and acquainting him with the Truth, he made up something, which he said was pleasant to take, and I waited upon Miss *Lamour*, according to my Promise. Thus we proceeded for about a Week, or ten Days ; when I told her, I would carry her to a Gentleman of my Acquaintance, with whom I often consulted, and she should have his Advice as well as mine. She readily came into any Thing ; and, he being appriz'd of it, I introduced her to him, and left him to ask her such Questions, in his Way, as I did not think proper for me to do. He came, and said to me, " Sir, you have, I think, proceeded " very well hitherto ; I believe Miss will " soon be well—her Lungs are very safe : " And accordingly, with his Prescription, in a little Time she recovered her Complexion, and became as gay as usual, without any one suspecting the Matter.

As to *Gayton*, I was afterwards informed,
he

he had never the Generosity to acquaint her, or take any Care for her well-doing; but, upon his Return to Town, finding her well, concluded it best to ask her no Questions, imagining she had luckily escaped.

IN my Attendance upon my Patient, I every Day more and more disliked her Aunt; and my Antipathy to her I could no more account for, than I could for my partial good Will to her Niece. All this Time *Reddy* was very uneasy, and constantly paid his Respects to her, tho' she gave him no Manner of Encouragement; but, on the contrary, was continually making a Dupe of him in one Thing or another: And, tho' he could not but perceive it, was so blind to her imaginary Charms, that he could not resent her Usage.

HEARTLY's Mother came to Town, and they went together into the Country, I begging to be excused; so was every Day at Mr. *Freeborn*'s, where Miss seemed happy in her Conquest, and made no Scruple of letting me know how much she valu'd my Friend. *Gayton* perceived he had no Chance against *Heartly*; but, as the Father had not yet been spoke to by *Heartly*, he had not told him his Daughter was engaged, tho' it was plain he perceived the Courtship, and desired it.

MR. *Freeborn* was continually recommending Miss *Steddy* to me; and one Day, saying, he must send to her, I offered to go; telling him,

him, I could give him no proper Answer to his Recommendation, 'till I had seen her, and then I would ingenuously speak the Truth to him. "Dear Papa," says Miss, "let Mr. A—— go. It is impossible for him "to see her, and not like her"—Upon which it was agreed, and, taking a Letter for her, away I rode.

SHE perceiv'd me coming to the House, and imagined I had discovered her; for, Reader, Miss *Steddy* was in Reality the Person I looked for. She was the *Clarinda* I searched after, tho' I did not know it then. She perswaded Miss *Heartly* to pass for her. Accordingly, upon my asking for Miss *Heartly* and Miss *Steddy*; I was answered, "Miss *Heartly* is Abroad; but, Sir, my Name is "*Steddy*."

I GAVE her Mr. *Freeborn*'s Letter, viewed her very narrowly, and could see nothing in her that could occasion me to like her at Sight. She withdrew to read the Letter, and write an Answer; which, when I had got, as Miss *Heartly* was not at Home, I could not be prevailed upon to stay. She was well enough; that is, she was no Way deformed, but she had no Allurements for me.

AT my Return, I could not help expressing to Miss *Freeborn*, how much I thought she wronged her Judgment; that I thought Miss *Steddy* really ordinary—"Oh fye," she cried, "do not say so; it must be a
"Mistake."

“ Mistake.” Your Papa, Miss,” I replied, “ will know by the Answer I have brought, “ whether I have been with her or no.” And when he came in, and had heard my Opinion, he persisted on his Daughter’s Side; “ But,” says he, “ we do not all see alike—This Letter is from her—Well then, it must go no farther ; but I thought I was doing you a Piece of Service.”

HEARTLY and his Mother coming Home that Evening, Miss *Steady* was brought up again. She was against me, and joined in the Encomiums that were bestowed upon her. “ Well,” says *Heartly*, “ when I go Home with you, Madam, I shall see her, “ I hope, and then I will give my Opinion : “ But my Friend has been so happy in his “ first Engagement, that it will now be a “ difficult Matter to persuade him any one “ is beautiful.” “ There is some Truth in “ that,” I replied ; “ but I have seen those “ I could pass the Rest of my Life with very “ agreeably, and I am always ready to praise “ according to my Judgment.” “ I can say “ nothing to it, till I see her,” answered *Heartly*.

THE next Morning he came to my Lodging, and I could easily perceive he was nettled at something. He desired me to take my Sword, and go along with him—“ With “ all my Heart,” I said : But begged him to tell me the Occasion ; for, I assured him, I was a very great Enemy to Duelling, and
could

could wish it might be prevented, especially where a Man I valued, as I did him, was concerned.

AT that he laughed, and told me, he did not know it was to be a Duel ; but that a young Gentleman had some Time been intimate in his own Family, and had perswaded his Sister to write to him at Times : That he believed there had been some little Courtship on the Gentleman's Side, but his Sister had discouraged it, and the Correspondence was at an End ; but he had been informed by *Gayton*, that Mr. *Fainall*, which was the Gentleman's Name, had boasted of having had Encouragement from his Sister, and had Letters from her, which would prove it ; and that he was going to demand the Letters—so away we went.

WHEN we came to Mr. *Fainall*'s, who lodged near *Covent-Garden*, he was at Home ; and, I being desired to stay below, *Heartly* went up to him. They were pretty warm, and I was called up. *Fainall*, for some Time, denied the Letters, and then refused to deliver them : At last, upon *Heartly*'s insisting upon them, or Satisfaction, they were delivered to him. When *Heartly*, casting a Look of Disdain upon him, said, “ Sir, I cannot harbour a Thought of my Sister's giving you
“ any Encouragement, whatever you have
“ told Mr. *Gayton*—I do not believe it.”
Fainall said, *Gayton* was a Scoundrel, to tell any Thing out of private Conversation—
“ That's

"That," answered *Heartly*, "you may tell him, Sir, yourself;" then putting the Letters in his Pocket, we came away; and calling at the first Coffee-House, he sealed them up, saying, "I do not want to read them; but I shall desire her to be more cautious, for the future, to whom she writes."

WHEN we came Home, we were surprized to see the Servant run in crying, "Here is Mr. *Heartly* and Mr. *A*—!" and immediately out came Mrs. *Heartly* and Miss *Freeborn*, all in Tears. They hung about him, unable to tell us what was the Matter: At last, Mrs. *Heartly* said, "Oh! my dear Son, how can you be so rash!—Why do you use me thus unkindly!—What was the great Affront, that only Blood could satisfy!—How you have frightened us!" He soon perceived they imagined he had been to fight a Duel, and behaved with extreme Tenderness to Miss; being pleas'd at this Time, I believe, with her Tears.

By Degrees we got out the whole Story—That when he was sent for to Breakfast, the Servant told them, he was gone out, with his Sword on. As it was not customary for him to wear his Sword in a Morning, they were alarmed, and had sent to my Lodging; and there heard, we both had our Swords, and were gone together: That then they concluded some Quarrel had happened, and Mr. *Freeborn* was gone in search of

of us. *Heartly* then repeated the whole Affair to them; adding, As he did not know what might happen, he had taken me with him.

By this Time Matters were all adjusted, and I could not help thinking *Gayton* had some private End in his Intelligence. I considered him as a Man capable of the blackest Action—but I kept my Conjecture to myself. Soon after came in Mr. *Freeborn*; “So,” says he, “I see you are both well, but you “have caused a good many Tears. Tho’ “I could hear nothing of you—I hope there “is no Harm done:” Upon which he was let into the Whole. “Well, I do not see,” said he, “how it could be avoided; tho’ it “might have had worse consequence. I assure you; Gentlemen, I was concerned for “you both.” This we readily believed, and thanked him accordingly; when *Heartly* desired to speak with him.

WHILE they were gone, Miss told me, she had been terribly frightened, and was afraid she had discovered greater Weakness than she ought. I answered her, I thought not; that, so far from it, her Concern seemed to please *Heartly*, and I was mistaken if she did not soon know it—That I knew he had made some Overtures to her; at which she blushed, and confessed he had lately been pretty particular, and she wished him to think she deserved him—But she was soon made easy, by the coming back of her Father; who said,

D

“Daughter,

"Daughter, you are at Liberty to give Mr. Gayton what answer you please; but I recommend Mr. *Heartly* to you. I do not compel your Choice, but I would direct it to your Happiness." She answered, She should esteem his Advice as a Command, especially in what was so agreeable to her own Inclination.—The next Day *Heartly* and his Mother went to her House, but I was unluckily prevented by an unexpected Incident.

CHAP. VI.

The Author meets with his natural Brother. Some odd Pranks of Miss Lamour's—And some other Things, which the Reader will find farther explain'd hereafter.

HEARTLY and I went directly from Mr. *Freeborn's* to the Coffee-House, and were but just sat down, when I was accosted by an elderly Man in grey Clothes, saying; "Sir, I am glad to see you: I have, according to Order, brought your Brother to Town." My Brother! Sir," I replied; "I never had a Brother—you are misinformed." "Are not you, Sir," he said again, "the Son of Mr. *A*—?" "Yes, Sir," I answered; "but I never had a Brother for all that." Sir" he replied again, "I am a School-Master in *Yorkshire*, and have had the young Gentleman under my Care these eight Years. I have been paid constantly, 'till within these two
"Years;

“ Years ; and writing for my Money, I received this Letter, directing me to bring him up to his Brother, which I have obey’d.”

ALL the while he was speaking, I was surveying a brave chubby-fac’d Lad, of about sixteen Years of Age ; who, while I was surveying him, was very full of his Manners. I recollected, that my Father had kept Company with a Woman, and had two Children by her ; and, taking the Letter, I read a Scrawl, signifying, That his Father was dead, but that his elder Brother was in Town, and it would be best to bring him up immediately, otherwise he might lose his Money ; with a Direction where I was to be found. “ Sir,” said I, “ this is a Trick put upon you. My Father kept Company with a Person ; and, now he is dead, I suppose, Madam would put her Son upon me ; but I can sufficiently make it appear I never had a Brother, and I shall not take Care of a lewd Woman’s Issue—Pray, how came you by him?”

UPON which he told me, That about eight Years ago, being in Town to get Scholars, a Gentleman took him to such a Street, and gave him Charge of this Boy, calling him his Son ; and, till within these two Years, he had been duly paid. I answered, I was sorry for it, but it was not my Business ; that my Father had been dead four Years, and asked him if he had been in that Street ? He said,

Yes, but could get no other Tidings, than that the Gentleman was dead, and his Wife was removed, no one knew whither : That he had made a fine Journey of it ; but, as to the Lad, he must seek his Bread—He had taken Care of his Education, and he would try to get him a Place; before he went out of Town ; for he was a very good-natured Boy, and might do well, if he would but mind his Business.

THIS struck me, to think that, merely because he had brought the Lad up, he was good-natured enough, notwithstanding he was to lose his Journey and two Years Board, to endeavour to provide for him ; and observing the Lad to stand with Tears in his Eyes, reflecting, that he was an Out-cast, and had no one to own him—that I said, “ Come, “ Sir, it is your Dinner-Time ; let us step “ to the next Tavern, and I will consider a “ little more of it.” *Heartily* all this Time sat silent ; and, upon my getting up to go, he said, “ I will just step Home, and come to “ you.”

I CONSIDER'D with myself, the Boy was certainly my Father's Son, and I begun to own my own Blood. I asked him several Questions, to which he gave very ready Answers. He told me, he was sure he should know his Mother very well, if ever he should see her ; that he had a Sister older than himself, who was always dressed very fine ; that his Mother loved her always better than him,

him, which was the Reason of his being sent away. At last, I thought he would be but a small Expence to me, and it was easy for me to put him out to some good Trade, through Mr. *Freeborn's* Interest; and I resolved to own him, and take him under my Protection. Accordingly, I told his Master I would pay him; but desired him, laughing, to bring me no more Brothers. This being settled, in came *Heartly*, who was very well pleas'd with my Resolution.

AFTER we had dined I took them Home, and discharged the old Gentleman's Demands, which indeed were very reasonable, not amounting to above Twenty-six Pounds, and agreed with my Landlord to board him for a little Time; and, leaving him there, went to Mr. *Freeborn's*. *Heartly* had told them the Whole, and Miss *Freeborn* was sure I would not part with him whatever I said. "Well," says she, "am I right or no? Have you not taken Care of your Brother?" "Yes, Miss, I have," reply'd I; "I could not bear to turn him into the World without a Friend." "I am glad of it," she answered; "Mr. *Heartly*, I am sure, intends to do something for him. I heard him talk to my Papa about it; adding, he had no Way to oblige you: And then told us how generously you would have acted this Morning—I am greatly oblig'd to you for that. It was very handsome in you to offer to take upon yourself to demand the

“ Letters; and to tell him, that if any Accident happen’d, you had Nobody to cry after you; but he ought to consider his Mother and Sister, and one, to whom he was as dear as either. You may depend upon it, I shall never forget it.”

HEARTLY left me when I went Home, and was not returned; but while Miss and I were talking, Mr. *Freeborn* and he came in together—“ I assure you Sir,” said Mr. *Freeborn*, “ your Behaviour greatly has pleased me. Mr. *Heartly* and I are agreed, and I have to request of you to let your Brother come into our Compting-House—I have Obligations to you—and we must not be deny’d.”

THE Offer was too advantageous for my Brother, for me to refuse it; and, with many Thanks, I accepted it: But it was necessary to equip him in a Manner a little more fashionable, so desiring to be excused from going the next Day’s Journey, I went about that Business; and, when he was new dress’d, he made quite another Figure.

I FOUND his Master had done him great Justice; that he perfectly understood Grammar, and wrote a very good Hand: But, as *French* was necessary in a Compting-House, I found out a Master who was to attend him daily.

WHEN *Heartly* returned, he was full of his Commendations of Miss *Steddy*, and join’d against me in my Sentiments of that Lady.

“ I am

“ I am sure,” says he, “ she is an intimate Acquaintance of your’s; though she knew not of your Wife’s Death, and seemed greatly concerned at it, when it was mentioned.”

STILL I was at a Loss; I could neither agree Miss *Steddy* deserved those Commendations which were given her, nor could I imagine how she knew so much of me. I could not see what was so plain, that she could be no other than *Clarinda*. Had I thought that, all the Difficulty had been solved; and, in spite of all her Endeavours to avoid me, I had met with Opportunities to converse with her. —But then I had seen Miss *Steddy*; and she, I saw was not *Clarinda*, nor had she any Thing in my Eye so engaging, as to draw me into a second Visit.

I ATTENDED my Brother ’till I had showed him every Thing curious in Town, and then introduc’d him to Mr. *Freeborn*. I was in Hopes Chance might, in our Walks, have thrown his Mother into his Way, as he was so positive he knew her; but I was not so happy as to discover her. He was received into the Family with great Civility, and was as happy as his utmost Wishes could desire. *Gayton* came but seldom, Mr. *Freeborn* having thought it proper to inform him, That he had disposed of his Daughter, with her own Consent; but that he should always be welcome to his House, as a Friend.

It was visible *Gayton* was greatly chagrined; but why Miss *Lamour* absented herself,

we could not imagine. She became an entire Stranger to the House, though I was certain her Amour continued with *Gayton*, and her meeting him there was very convenient; but, as her Conduct was not easy to be accounted for, and she was withal very whimsical, her Absence was not regarded. Indeed I had several of her Morning Visits, in all which she behaved with great Freedom; but, I knew too much of her, to throw any Inclination away after her: However, I carried it very civilly to her, and occasionally visited there, where I constantly found Mr. *Reddy* offering Incense to his Idol, who regarded it as little as real Idols do.

ONE Morning, calling there, I was prevailed upon to go along with her and her Lover up the Water, to dine upon Fish. We were tolerable agreeable Company, and to give him a Mark of her Esteem, as she was stepping out of the Boat, she pretended to stumble. He readily endeavoured to catch her; and she, I could perceive, maliciously enough, tipped him into the Water. He was over Head and Ears, and she very heartily laughed at him; begging his Pardon all the while, and crying, "Who can forbear laughing, to see the Figure you cut?"

WE got him to Bed, and, in Complaisance, dined by his Bedside, while his Clothes were drying: where she so manag'd him, that he never perceived the Affront. It was near dark when we return'd, and I took them

to

to Supper at a Tavern. When we parted, she some how artfully engaged him in a Quarrel; and the next Morning I was surprized with a Note from her Paramour, informing me, he was in Prison, and begged me to come to him. I found him very melancholy, but understanding it was only a Watchman was to appear against him, with a little Money, properly apply'd, I got him his Liberty.

WHEN I went to Mr. *Freeborn's*, all were at me to know where I was Yesterday—Miss *Steddy* was here, and we were wishing for you all Day—She came by Ten in the Morning, and stayed 'till Five. I was vexed I was out of the Way, for I was convinced no one could like her whom I had seen—However, she was gone. I then diverted them with the Occurrences of my Day, and how I had been engaged that Morning; at which they were very merry, yet surprized at Miss *Lamour's* Conduct. It was generally allow'd, it was an odd Way of shewing Love—but ill Manners to use any one so she disliked.

Miss *Freeborn* expressed great Desire to see Mr. *Reddy*. I told her, I believed it might easily be done, without being acquainted with him. I knew he had taken a Box at *Drury-Lane* Theatre, for the *Saturday* following; and intended to take Miss *Lamour* with him to see *The Constant Couple*, a celebrated Performer being to appear in the Character of Sir *Harry Wildair*, for the first Time. Mr. *Freeborn*, and Miss, *Heartly*, and myself went

there likewise, and took my Brother with us. We were so situated, that we could observe their Behaviour during the whole Performance. When it was over, I asked Miss *Freeborn*, How she liked *Reddy*? Why, really, not at all," said she; "for I believe he's above Half " a Coxcomb — And, as to Miss *Lamour*, " your Brother says he has seen her some- " where."

THIS then made no Impression upon me, as knowing there were People who dressed very oddly in the Country; and, as he had seen so little of the World, it was easy for him to be mistaken.—Mr. *Freeborn* was taken up a good deal with Business, a Correspondent of his being dead at *Lisbon*. His Wife and Daughter were come over, and he was taken up in settling the Accounts between them. The Daughter was very young, not Fifteen, but very pretty; seemingly forward in her Behaviour, and, being an only Child, tho' her Mother was a Woman of Discretion, had been greatly humour'd.

GAYTON, though he came but seldom, I found had fixed his Eye upon her, and she seemed pleased with the Notice of so fine a Gentleman—So weakly Girls judge! But one great Obstacle was in his Way; she went nowhere without Miss *Freeborn*, and generally either *Heartly* or I accompany'd them. *Gayton* often made one—but he wanted her Abroad by herself, but that was not so easy; yet he found Means to bribe the Maid who came over with them,

them, and a literary Correspondence was carried on very secretly between them.

In the mean Time it was necessary, Mr. *Freeborn* thought, to send some one over to the House at *Lisbon*, and he pitched upon his head Clerk; but, willing to oblige me, offered my Brother should go there too for his Improvement, which I readily assented to. They were no sooner gone, than Miss *Lamour* renewed her Visits as usual, and became very fond of the young Stranger. As she thought *Gayton*, a fine Gentleman, for the same reason she thought Miss *Lamour* a fine Lady; who being of a gayer Temper than Miss *Freeborn*, and not so circumspect in her Actions, soon became the Favourite.

THE good Mother all this while, knowing the Character of Mr. *Freeborn*, was extremely well pleased with the Company her Daughter kept; yet my Suspicions were awake—I communicated them to *Heartly*, who only said, He did not think *Gayton* durst attempt any bad Thing in their Family: “I know,” says he, “he is a gay Spark, yet I cannot believe he means any Thing farther than showing himself. However, I will acquaint Miss *Freeborn*, and put her upon the Guard,” which he did. Miss spoke to me of it, saying, “Miss *Williams*,” for that was the Name, “is young and giddy, and has been very much indulged; but I can not think you have any Reasons for your Suspicions.” I answered, I had several

several Reasons, which I did not think proper to mention yet, which induced me to believe *Gayton* a bad Man; and there was no Harm in preventing what, when done, would be too late to prevent. “Well, well,” she reply’d, “I will give her as much of my “Company as I can”—and so the Matter rested.

ONE Day, after Dinner, Mrs. *Williams* was talking of her Husband, and saying, He had very good Relations in the West of *England*, but she had never seen them, he going to *Lisbon* just after their Marriage, and, it was very possible, they would take little Notice of her; otherwise, when her Affairs were settled, she should chuse to live there, as he had often commended that Part of *England*, and intended, had not Death prevented him, soon to have retired thither. I told her, I had an intimate Friend of the Name in those Parts; and in Discourse I found she was, by Marriage, my good Friend’s Aunt. This Discovery made me more anxious to prevent any Harm happening to Miss, from her new gay Acquaintance.

I WROTE to Mr. *Williams*, to let him know of his Aunt and Niece being come over; and Mr. *Freeborn*, having settled all Accounts, told the Mother there was Ten Thousand Pounds coming to her, which he would dispose of for her in as secure a Manner as possible.—But I had now some Affairs of my own coming on.

C H A P. VII.

*The Author finds Clarinda—Their Interview.
A Scheme of Gayton's and Miss Lamour's.
It is frustrated. Miss Williams hurried to
a Boarding-School, &c.*

MISS Freeborn, one Day, receiving an agreeable Letter from Miss Steddy, in which there was nothing which required her to conceal it, showed it to her Papa, by Way of amusing him. He, very well pleased with it, showed it to *Hearthly* and me; saying, "I am sure, Sir, however you do not approve of the Lady, you cannot disapprove of her good Sense." I no sooner had it in my Hand, than I knew it came from *Clarinda*—I could be positive to her Writing—my Colour came and went—yet it was all a Mystery to me. My Eyes informed me *Clarinda* wrote the Letter, yet it was signed *Anna-Maria Steddy*.

THEY perceived my Disorder, and asked me what was the Matter? I answer'd, There was something I was nearly concerned in, but it was very mysterious. "If this Letter," I said, "comes from the Person I can swear it does, she is the only Woman on Earth I want to see. But I have seen Miss Steddy, and she is not the Person. But, Miss, what Answer do you intend to give to this genteel Invitation?" She reply'd, "What my Papa pleases." "Sir," I said, "let me

“ me beg Miss and Miss *Williams* may go,
 “ and I will accompany them. I want to
 “ clear up this perplexed Affair. The Per-
 “ son, whose Hand I can swear this is, is very
 “ handsome—Yet I am some way deceiv’d—
 “ Pray let them go.” This he agreed to ;
 and, without sending any Answer, the next
 Day we set out early : The young Ladies in
 a Chariot, and I on Horseback.

UPON the Road I told Miss *Freeborn*, not to
 take any Notice I was come with them ; for
 that I should not come to the House ’till af-
 ter they had been there some Time :
 “ The Reason you,” said I, “ at a proper
 “ Time shall know.” Accordingly, it was
 near an Hour before I went ; and, asking for
 the young Ladies, was showed in—And there
 indeed I found *Clarinda* !

It was very visible we had before been ac-
 quainted—We were both in Confusion, and
 behaved awkwardly enough : However, pay-
 ing my Compliments round, I sat down by
 her, and said softly, “ My fair Fugitive, you
 “ cannot now well get away, without hearing
 “ me a few Words : After that, upon my
 “ Honour, I will obey you.” She answered,
 “ Indeed I will—but this is no proper
 “ Time.”

UPON some one mentioning Miss *Heartly*,
 I looked round, and wonder’d to hear Miss
Steddy answer. She coloured, and said,
 “ Sir, it is Time now, I believe, to undeceive
 “ you—My Name is really *Heartly*—you
 “ are

“are next Miss *Steddy*”—and then unravelled Part of my Mistake. “It was,” added she, “in Compliance with her Request, that I represented her — I hope there was no Harm.” “Miss *Heartly*,” says Miss *Freeborn*, my Papa and I were recommending Miss *Steddy* to Mr. *A—*; and praising her, as we really thought she deserved, when he came on Purpose to see her. But we were greatly disappointed at his Return.” I stopped her, by saying, “No farther, Miss, I desire—All I said is not to be told—I acknowledge all you said, in Praise of this Lady, to be true—But you find I did not see the real Miss *Steddy*.” “Very well,” answered Miss *Heartly*, “I understand you.”

CLARINDA spoke softly to me (for I must still call her so) to take Care I called her by no other Name than *Steddy*; for by that Name only she had gone, since the Death of her Godmother. Mrs. *Heartly* went out, to give Orders for Dinner; and her Daughter, Miss *Williams*, and Miss *Freeborn*, followed her; when I took the Opportunity to tell *Clarinda*, the Vexation and Trouble she had occasion'd me—“I took it so unkind of you,” I said, “to leave me, without hearing me, that I imputed it to an acquired Pride, and resolved never more to seek after you.” She answered, “You ought to know the uneasiness you have cost me. I did not know your Wife was dead, and I could not con-
“ceive

“ceive any Business you could have with me;
 “unless to insult me.” “My Temper,” I
 replied, “was not capable of doing that,
 “nor would my Heart suffer it—No, *Clarinda*,
 “other Motives made me search after
 “you, after I first saw you in this Village.
 “I have often thought the Death of my
 “Wife was a Punishment for my Infidelity
 “to you, and I longed to find you to offer
 “you all the Recompence in my Power.
 “Accept my Esteem—accept my Hand—A
 “Heart entire I have now to give you.”
 “Let us,” she answered, “look for our
 “Company—I promise you I will not
 “hide myself from you any more.”

WE passed two or three Days here very agreeably; though I could obtain no farther Encouragement, than that I was welcome to see her when I pleased; *Clarinda* saying, “I
 “will promise no more, nor do I believe I
 “ever shall.”

WHEN we returned to *London*, Mr. *Gayton* and I acted our Parts with great Assiduity; he took extream Pains to draw Miss *Williams* out by herself, and I was very careful to prevent it: However, one Morning his Emissary, Miss *Lamour*, came; and, finding her alone, Miss *Freeborn* being gone up Stairs, persuaded her to step with her to her Aunt’s; saying, “We shall be back presently.” Had the Appointment really been there, I should have trembled for the Consequences; but it happen’d to be only a
 Scheme

Scheme to draw her to *Gayton's* Lodgings, whither I accidentally came, just as they had entered. *Gayton* seemed surprized at seeing me, and well he might, for it was very seldom I called upon him.

It was plain this was a Scheme, for every Thing was in great Order to receive her: However, she and Miss *Lamour* returned with me. I found *Heartly* and Miss *Freeborn* alarmed at her Absence; and, when it was known where she had been, Miss *Freeborn*, with an austere Air, I had never seen her assume before, desired Miss *Lamour* never to take such Liberties for the future; saying, "Miss, however slight you may make of visiting Gentlemen at their Lodgings, it is a Behaviour not approv'd of here. I am always ready to accompany Miss *Williams* to every proper place."

Miss *Williams* very innocently said, "I did not intend to go to, nor did I know it was Mr. *Gayton's* Lodgings, 'till I came there—I went out, to go to Miss *Lamour's*." "Yes, indeed," said Miss *Lamour*, in a good deal of Confusion, "I only took Miss to go to my Aunt's, and called upon Mr. *Gayton* as we went along. I am sure I thought no Manner of Harm"—And this passed over: Yet Miss *Freeborn* thought proper to acquaint her Papa with it. He seemed concerned; and said, "Miss *Williams* is young; I will persuade her Mother to put her to the School for a Year or two, you was at—
" She

“ She will be sure to be taken Care of
“ there.”

ABOUT this Time I received a Letter from my Friend Mr. *Williams*, in Answer to mine; with one inclosed to his Aunt, full of Terms of great Respect, and professing an eager Desire to see her in the Country. She was inclinable to go; saying, “ If I like the Country, I can find some little House to settle in, and I shall be glad to be among my Husband’s Relations.” Accordingly taking Mr. *Freeborn*’s Advice, as to her Daughter, she prepared for her Journey: But one Morning, crossing the Hall, Somebody knocked at the Door, and she, being so near, open’d it; where she found a Porter, who asked for Mrs. *Williams*’s Maid; saying, He had a Letter for her. “ Very well,” she answered; “ give it me, and I will take Care to deliver it to her”—Which he did; and accordingly she went up again into her Daughter’s Room, where the Maid was, and gave it.

THE Maid not thinking it came from *Gayton* by her Mistress’s Hands, open’d it, and out dropped another; which Mrs. *Williams* hastily taking, saw was directed to her Daughter. It is to be imagin’d, she did not stand upon Ceremony; but immediately open’d it, and read as follows:

“ My

" My dear Love,
 " **M**Y damn'd evil Genius, *A—*, pre-
 " vented me the other Morning from
 " breathing my Soul out before you. You
 " have told me, you do not dislike me. Con-
 " trive some Way to get out, and fly to me.
 " I cannot live longer without you. I can
 " secrete you so, as all their Search shall be
 " in vain; and what have you to fear from
 " one, who so dearly loves you? Depend up-
 " on my Honour, and fly to the enamoured
 " *STREPHON.*"

" Very well," said Mrs. *Williams*: " Pray,
 " Madam, since you take so much Pains to
 " dispose of my Daughter, let me see your
 " Billet—I suppose there is a Price set
 " for your good Services." The Maid, who
 had not read it herself, was forced to comply,
 and give her Mistress, with trembling, her
 Letter—It contain'd as follows:

" Dear *Sukey*,
 " **Y**OU promised me your Assistance,
 " and I have Reason to blame you for
 " not being so good as your Word. I am
 " afraid my Love to Miss is smok'd;
 " and, if you do not help her to get out,
 " I shall lose her. I had compleated my
 " Happiness t'other Morning, if Mr. *A—*
 " had not prevented me—Let me see you,
 " I have Twenty Guineas more ready for
 " you.

"you. I will expect you at their Dinner-
 "Time ; it is, you know, but a Step.

" *I am Yours.*"

"So, Mrs. *Go-between*, I am greatly obliged
 "to you ; but I will find a Way to punish
 "you, depend upon it," said Mrs. *Williams*.
 "Pray who do these extraordinary Letters
 "come from?—The Rascal, whoever he is,
 "deserves my Acknowledgment." "Mr.
 "Gayton, Madam," answered the Maid—
 "Mr. Gayton!" replied Mrs. *Williams* ;
 "Mr. Gayton might have spoke to me, if his
 "Intentions had been honest—But my
 "Daughter was to have been ruined, and
 "you was to have been the Bawd, Hussy—
 "What Providence it was I went to the
 "Door!—And you, Madam," speaking to
 "her Daughter, "who are so ready to be Mr.
 "Gayton's Trull—What have you to say for
 "yourself? This is not the first Letter, I
 "suppose—give me the rest immediately, do
 "Minx"—Which she did, and the poor
 "Gentlewoman came down Stairs to us, with
 "Tears in her Eyes, and told us the whole
 "Story.

WE looked upon one another, as wanting
 "some one to speak. At last *Heartly* said,
 "Madam, we all believe Gayton's Inten-
 "tions to be bad ; but we were apprized of
 "it, and it would have been impossible for
 "Miss to have got out by herself. She has
 "been strictly watched since that Morning ;
 "and, as she was soon to go to the Boarding-
 "School,

“ School, was the only Reason you was not
 “ acquainted with it—We thought there was
 “ no Occasion to make you uneasy ; and my
 “ Advice is, to carry her thither immediate-
 “ ly. As to punishing the Maid, to be sure
 “ you can ; but then the Story must be
 “ known, and Miss will suffer as much in
 “ her Character, as the Maid in *Bridewell* ;
 “ therefore, even dismiss her at once.”

THIS we approved of, and Mr. *Freeborn* offered to attend her ; saying, “ Let us carry
 “ Miss, we can send her Things after ;” and a Coach being called, Miss, drowned in Tears, was hurried from a Sweetheart to School. The Maid was locked up ’till her Mistress returned, that she might have no Opportunity of knowing what was become of Miss, and we diverted ourselves with Mr. *Gayton*’s amorous Epistles. They were all very fulsomely passionate—A good deal of Honour, but not even one Tittle of a Promise of Marriage—Not a Word which might, in the most good-natured Sense, countenance her Consent.

AT their Return, the Maid was packed off ; and Mr. *Freeborn* ordered his Servants to tell Mr. *Gayton*, when he next came, that he was not at Home, and Miss *Williams* was gone from thence.

THE artful Maid went immediately from Mr. *Freeborn*’s to *Gayton*, as *Reddy* informed me afterwards, and told him, she was discovered and turned away ; but as his Letters had

had no Name to them, but *Strephon*, she would not tell who they came from. He gave her the Twenty Guineas, and came, with great Assurance, in the Evening to Mr. *Freeborn's*; but was greatly abashed, when he received the Answer left for him with the Servants.

WHEN I saw Miss *Lamour*, she was very gay; saying, "What a Rout there has been about a little Courtship!—But *Gayton* imagines who he is to thank for it—He intended no Harm." I thought myself a little reflected upon, and pretty warmly answered, "I know no one, Miss, cares for Mr. *Gayton's* Imaginations; and, as to you, I think you have had sufficient Proof of his Love to you, else you could not be so easy when he makes his Addresses else-where." She replied, She did not know what I meant: That she esteemed Mr. *Gayton* as a Man of Honour, and supposed I had a Mind for the young Lady myself, else I had never made myself so busy. Her Opinion was of very little Consequence to me, and I was no way afraid of *Gayton* openly—It was sufficient to me I had, in some Measure, preserved the Cousin of my best Friend from Ruin. Mr. *Williams's* Friendship was of more Weight with me, than Mr. *Gayton's* Pleasures—so I made myself very easy.

Mrs. *Williams* went down into the West, and I accompanied her as far as *Salisbury*,
and

and made it in my Way back to call upon *Clarinda*. She received me with great Civility, rather cold; and I took a good deal of Pains to know the Reason, as I had declared my Mind to her. I had been accustomed to be received with Tenderness—Bare Civility was due to any one, I expected more. “I do not know,” says she, “how you would have me behave—I have seriously thought of what you said to me, and I think I ought to accept your Offer, on one Hand: On the other, I ought to refuse it. Was I,” and burst into Tears, “what I once was, I had preferred you to any one; but now, what can I expect but Reproach? At every Turn of your Temper, whenever you are ruffled, or by whomsoever, I must bear it. I dare not answer you, if you reflect upon me—I must stand self-convicted. Let us continue as we are—I will never be another’s—Visit me, as one sure of my Esteem—Let that content you.”

SHE judged reasonably enough; but then she had taken such Pains to improve herself, that I found I had more than Esteem for her—therefore I answered her, she judged too severely; that Want generally occasioned Reproach; that I was not afraid of her giving me any real Reason, her Conduct had so endeared her to my present Friends, and was in itself so amiable; that even they would expect some Reason for our not approving of each other now, after we had both spoke so well

well of each other, and she could not think her Reason was a sufficient, or proper one to give them, and begged her to consider better.

“Well then,” says she, “not to your Friends, but yourself, I yield; but remember what I said, and never reflect upon me again.”

WE then agreed to begin a new Courtship, and that she should consult Mr. *Freeborn*, in what was necessary to be done for her; and, charging myself with all Mrs. *Heartly*’s Commissions for her Son, I took my Leave.

C H A P. VIII.

Some farther Account of Gayton and Reddy.

Fainall applies to the Author—On what Account.

WHEN I came to Mr. *Freeborn*’s, I had a good deal of agreeable Raillery thrown upon me, for calling at Mrs. *Heartly*’s—Nothing could divert them from thinking Miss *Steddy* attracted me there. Indeed it was true, but I thought it Time enough yet to confess it. I contented myself with saying, It was so little out of my Way, that I looked upon it I could not well avoid calling: Adding, “Indeed, I like Miss *Steddy*, but it may take some Time to perswade her to like me well enough to give me her Hand: Nor have I so much Vanity as to imagine, because a young Lady speaks well of me, she is ready to have me.” “That is
“very

“ very right,” said Miss *Freeborn*, “ but I
 “ could see enough, when you met, to con-
 “ vince me, you knew one another very well;
 “ and merely having been acquainted could
 “ not occasion that mutual Confusion—I see
 “ it will be a Match.” Mr. *Freeborn* said,
 He should be very glad of it; and, if he was
 at all consulted in it, he should recommend
 me to her Choice. I was greatly oblig’d to
 them all.—and, as I had rode a pretty long
 Journey, I retired Home to Bed.

THE next Morning *Reddy* surprized me
 with a Visit; and, by his dejected Counte-
 nance, I perceived had, or at least thought
 he had, some great Business to communicate
 to me. I asked him what he ailed? He
 seemed very melancholy, and answered, with
 a deep Sigh, that an ugly Affair had hap-
 pened, which was likely to be very trouble-
 some to him; and he came on purpose to in-
 form me of it, and to ask my Advice.

“ WELL, out with it,” I answered—upon
 which he begun. “ I informed you that
 “ *Gayton* had given *Sukey*, the Maid that was
 turned away, Twenty Guineas, for conceal-
 “ ing his Name, as she told him; but when
 “ he found it was a Bite, and that he was
 “ discovered, he vowed Revenge some Way
 “ or other. Accordingly, two Mornings
 “ ago, when I was with him, he sent for her.
 “ The Girl is very full of Play, and he, romp-
 “ ing with her, had taken the Twenty
 “ Guineas, which were in a little Box, out

“ of her Pocket, without her Knowledge.
 “ After she was gone, *Gayton* told me he had
 “ got his Twenty Guineas again. We had
 “ scarce done speaking, when she came back
 “ again; and said, How can you frighten
 “ me so? Come, give me my Box—I don’t
 “ love such Jests. He answered, He had
 “ none of her Box.”

“ It was none of my Business to contra-
 “ dict him—The Girl fell a crying; saying,
 “ He had taken it, when they were playing
 “ together, and there were Twenty Guineas
 “ in it. He positively denied it; and away
 “ she went, sobbing and blubbering thro’ the
 “ Street, she was robbed. At last some one
 “ directed her to a *Newgate* Sollicitor. To
 “ him she has told her Story, and will take
 “ her Oath she was robbed there; and he
 “ has been with me, and tells me he would,
 “ as a Friend, advise me to make it up,
 “ otherwise he shall proceed against me as an
 “ Accomplice. But that is not all, *Gayton*
 “ has told Miss *Lamour* that I had the Girl,
 “ and owns to her he had the Money. She
 “ laughs at his having got the Money, but
 “ will never see me, she says, again.”

“ A FINE Kettle of Fish,” I said, “ Mr.
 “ *Reddy*, you have made of it. It is plain
 “ the Girl is robbed; and, if she should
 “ swear you an Accomplice, you will stand
 “ a bad Chance—I would advise you to
 “ make it up.” “ That I will do,” he an-
 “ swered, “ with all my Heart; tho’ my Estate
 “ is

“ is small, and my keeping *Gayton* Company
 “ pretty expensive. “ But,” with another
 great Sigh, “ how can I make it up with
 “ Miss *Lamour* ?” “ Why,” said I, “ you
 “ must desire *Gayton* to say it was all a Jest
 “ of his own. I will meet you To-morrow
 “ Morning at *Lamour*’s, and help to make it
 “ up.” “ Pray do,” he replied ; “ she
 “ will be in Town then—They are gone to
 “ *Windsor*, and I was to have gone too, if
 “ *Gayton* had not blabbed :” And being a little at Ease, by having unburthened his Mind, he went his Way to lament his bad Conduct, and contemplate on his *Dulcinea*.

I WENT accordingly, having no Mind to be quite out with Miss *Lamour*, and I had not seen her since our little Bickering. I found poor *Reddy* waiting at the Corner of the Court for my coming ; having not dared to venture in alone, lest the Lightning of her Eye should flash him dead. I found *Gayton* there, and Miss in very good Humour. She received us tolerably well ; and, *Gayton* saying it was all a Joke, she pardoned her Swain, and once more admitted him to the Honour of being her Fool. However, the Gaiety of Mr. *Reddy*’s Spirits, upon Account of his happy Reconciliation, was a little lowered, by the coming of the Solicitor ; who, enquiring for *Gayton* and him, was introduced.

GAYTON, having been out of Town, knew nothing of the Matter ; and when he found how the Affair went, and that the

Girl had got proper Advisers, and was determined to go through with it, if swearing would do—After he had bullied about Half an Hour to no Purpose; said, In Compassion to the Girl, as she had, he knew, lost her Place upon his Account, he would give her Twenty Guineas; and, to prevent any Harm coming to Mr. *Reddy*, he should give her Ten, and all should be made up.

THIS very equitable Proposal of Mr. *Gayton's* was after some little Demur, accepted: So he only returned the Girl the Twenty Guineas he had taken from her, and poor *Reddy* contentedly paid Ten out of his own Pocket. I could not help whispering to him, It was dear dealing with Chamber-Maids—“Hush! Hush!” he cried, “Miss *Lamour* will hear you.”

THE Solicitor was brushing off with the Cash, but I thought proper not to let him go, 'till they had a Discharge under the Girl's Hand; and she being sent for, Miss *Lamour* was so taken with her, either really or out of Jealousy, for she was a very pretty Wenche, that she pretended she wanted a Maid, and she would take her; which by the Maid was readily consented to, tho' I saw it displeased *Gayton*: Yet his being against it would but the more have confirmed Miss *Lamour* in her Resolution to take her.

THESE Matters being amicably adjusted, I took my Leave, *Gayton* and I parting very ceremoniously.—I found *Heartly* at the Coffee-House,

House, and laughed very heartily at the Affair; but, as I had never mentioned Miss *Lamour's* Conduct to him, he was a good deal surprized at her Manner of Behaviour. I asked him, How he went on with Miss *Freeborn*, and when was to be the Time? He answered, "Not yet; she knows my Mind; and approves of me, so we are agreed: But I find I have enough, and I shall have every Thing put in Order in the Country; and, when I marry, will at once retire from Business. Mr. *Freeborn* has some Time talked of retiring, and I fancy we shall quit at once, for I should not chuse another Partner — But, since you ask Questions, how do you and Miss *Steddy* go on?" "Indeed," I replied, "I am very lazy in my Courtship; I have not seen her but twice yet, but I will mend, I assure you. I believe her the only one I can like." "I have To day," says he, "settled Two Thousand Pounds upon my Sister, that she may not be dependent entirely upon me. Let her please herself; and if she chuses one of Character, and with the Behaviour of a Gentleman, I will readily call him Brother." "But, my good Friend," I said, "if Mr. *Freeborn* and you quit Trade, I shall be a little concerned for my Charge, my Half-Brother." "Oh!" he answered, you will be acquainted in Time: But our head Clerk, Mr. *Trusty*, who is now at *Lisbon*, has Money,

“ and I believe will come into it; and I will
 “ take Care your Brother shall have a Share,
 “ if it is in my Name, tho’ that will depend
 “ upon his Behaviour—But I am obliged to
 “ go.”

He was scarce gone, before *Fainall* came in; and, seeing me there, in a very genteel Manner accosted me. “ Sir,” says he, “ I think I have been in your Company before.” “ It is some Time ago, Sir,” I answered; “ but Mr. *Williams* and we were together once, upon a Frolick, all Night.” “ Aye, honest *Jack*! so it was—But he forgets his Friends; tho’, I hear, he leads a very comfortable, sober Life in the Country. I am glad, however, I have met with you; for, I assure you, I am ashamed of what passed the other Morning. I have really a great Regard for Miss *Heartly*; and, tho’ we tiffed it, I should think myself happy in having her for a Wife. As gay as I have been, I have not dipped my Fortune—I have kept within Bounds—But *Gayton* used me ill there. He was saying what great Luck Mr. *Heartly* had lately had, by the Death of his Relations; and I inadvertently answered, that I was very glad of it, for I knew his Sister, and was sometimes favoured with a Letter from her. I did not think it would have gone any farther, nor did I in the least intend any Reflection upon her. I came
 “ now

“ now into the City, in hopes to have found
 “ Mr. *Heartly*, and set the Matter to rights,
 “ and should be very glad of your good Of-
 “ fices. I am going into the Country, but
 “ I do not expect Miss *Heartly* will give me
 “ Admittance; and indeed she has some
 “ Reason to refuse seeing me, tho’ she can-
 “ not be insensible of my Esteem for her.”
 “ Sir,” I replied, “ I can do no more than
 “ tell my Friend what you say, and that I
 “ assure you I will.”

ACCORDINGLY, when I saw *Heartly*, I
 “ did.” “ Well,” says he, “ let them two
 “ agree it, I have no Objection to *Fainall*.
 “ He has a very handsome Income; and,
 “ tho’ he resides in *Covent-Garden* generally,
 “ I am certain has dropped his gay Way of
 “ Life.”

IN a few Days *Heartly* was to go into the
 Country, and I resolved to accompany him. I
 knew I could not well avoid going after he
 was settled, so I thought it best to bring my-
 self by Degrees to bear the Place, as I must
 carry *Clarinda* Home. *Heartly* was very well
 pleased when I let him know my Intention;
 saying, As I had excus’d myself before, he
 had not asked me, as imagining a Place I
 was so well acquainted with would recal
 other Things to my Mind; and he should
 be sorry to be the Means of renewing a Sor-
 row, it was very visible I at Times very in-
 differently smothered: However, keeping my

own Reasons to myself, as I had taken the Resolution, I accompany'd him.

CHAP. IX.

The Author and Mr. Heartly go into the Country. Some new Schemes of Gayton's and Miss Lamour's. Heartly uneasy, and why. A Reconciliation. A Stranger arrives in Town—With sundry other Things, proper for the Reader to be acquainted with.

THIS was a necessary, but a very melancholy Journey to me. When I came to my House, my Wife was here—was there—was every where. She was continually skimming before my Eyes. Here she bloomed, and all her Beauties presented themselves to my Ideas as alive—Here what Musick hung upon her Words!—How endearing were her Expressions!—Here, I cried to myself, she faded!—Here Death made a cruel Feast!—Here drooped the Lilly and the Rose!—My Heart was ready to burst—How dreary seemed the Place, where once Love kept a gay Court!

At my own House, I found Things beyond my Expectation; and giving what Orders I thought necessary, after a Stay of two Days, we returned. *Heartly* indeed had very kindly, while we were there, let me have my own Way, never offering to divert my Thoughts; but, upon the Road, told me, he
thought

thought it Time to ask me for some of my Company.

WHEN we came to Mr. *Freeborn's*, I found Miss *Steddy* there, agreeable to an Invitation she had received from Miss ; so that I very assiduously seemed to make my Addresses to her while she stayed, which was about a Fort-night. I also remembered what *Fainall* had said to me, and spoke to her about it. She told me, she knew that Miss *Heartly* had no Dislike to him, but they had quarrelled about a Squirrel; yet that would have been made up, had not the Affair of the Letters happened. "She was," added she, "in a terrible Fright, lest her Brother had read them. She showed them to me; and, indeed, I think she gave him Encouragement enough. She is perfectly easy now she has them in her own Possession, and I believe it will be a very difficult Matter to bring them together again—Women seldom forgive those who boast of their Favours, be they ever so trifling."

WHILE Miss *Steddy* was in Town, it was all a Scene of Pleasure. We went to every Place we could almost think of, or the Time permit, and *Heartly* was in a very particular Manner obliging to her, which, unperceived, displeased Miss *Freeborn*. Notwithstanding her good Sense, she took it into her Head, that *Heartly* ought to be civil to no one but her, and attributed his genteel Behaviour to a Liking he had taken. She let

the Devil Jealousy into her Thoughts, and gave herself up to be govern'd by that tormenting Fiend.

MR. *Freeborn* was concerned, to perceive an Alteration in his Daughter. She wasted—she pined—she grew melancholy, and lov'd to be alone. *Heartly* was truly concerned—but no one could discover what ail'd her. She grew very fond of Miss *Lamour*, and made her the Confident. *Gayton* was soon apprized of it, and renewed his Courtship by Letters; which she very imprudently received, tho' she never could be prevailed upon to write him an Answer. Miss *Lamour* encouraged her in her Suspicions, and seem'd very full of Business.

HEARTLY and I went often to his Mother's; I to visit *Clarinda*, he to shew a filial Regard. By some Means or other, all our little Diversions in the Country Miss *Freeborn* knew, before we told her, tho' we would never have gone without her. She constantly refused to go with us; saying, She should partake of our Amusements, tho' she was not with us. We knew no Body but Miss *Lamour* could tell her; but then how came Miss *Lamour* to know? that greatly surprized us.

HEARTLY, at last, seem'd displeased with Miss *Freeborn*'s Behaviour, and said, He would know the Truth: "I suspect," added he, "*Lamour* has made some Mischief; but, as I never gave Occasion for any Sort
" of

“of Treatment of this Kind, I expect Miss Freeborn will deal ingenuously by me and tell me.” He accordingly spoke to her—She denied giving him any satisfactory Answer; only saying, “I am not slighted by every Body.”

THIS nettled him, and he expostulated pretty warmly with her—Still she persisted in her Refusal; only telling him, She had been imposed upon, but Death would make her easy. This made him mad, and gave her great Satisfaction, she very coolly regarding his Uneasiness. He begged me to discover the Matter, if possible. All I could say to her availed as little, as all he had said: However, it was my good Fortune at last to unravel the Mystery.

I WENT to visit *Clarinda* by myself, *Heartly* giving close Attendance, as he really loved her, to Miss *Freeborn*. *Clarinda* told me, she had receiv'd a very odd Letter, by the last Post: “And if,” says she, “I was inclinable to be jealous, I think I have Reason for it. Pray read it, for I do not know what to make of it; nor did I expect such a one, from Miss *Freeborn*.” I took the Letter, and read as follows:

“MADAM,
“**Y**OUR Letters, since I have had the Honour of your Acquaintance, have always been agreeable to me, and given me real Pleasure in the Perusal. You are
“very

“ very happy in your Talents, but I can see
 “ through all the little Arts made use of to
 “ impose upon me. I despise all Art, and I
 “ think it Time our Correspondence was at
 “ an End. I wish you Joy of your new
 “ Conquest—Your Charms, I confess, are
 “ powerful.

“ I am Yours, Madam,

“ ANNE FREEBORN.

I stood considering a long while, and
Clarinda went on—“ I find, Sir, you have
 “ made your Addresses to Miss *Freeborn*, and
 “ it is I that ought to see through Art. If
 “ she had a Mind to you, why so much
 “ Pains to recommend you to me? But I
 “ cannot think it—She is imposed upon, and
 “ would impose upon me—I cannot make
 “ any Thing of it—I cannot think you
 “ would be so base to your Friend, Mr.
 “ *Heartly*.” “ As to me,” I answered, “ pray
 “ make yourself easy—I never paid the least
 “ Address to her—Here is something deeper
 “ —I will be hanged if she is not jealous of
 “ *Heartly*. He has treated you with so
 “ much Civility, and has lately accompany’d
 “ me hither so often, that must be it. She
 “ has fancied she has Reasons to be jealous,
 “ and will not take the Pains to undeceive
 “ herself. I pity her—I pity *Heartly*.—But
 “ what surprizes me is, that she always knew
 “ what we did here.”

CLARINDA

CLARINDA answered, "She could not conceive how that was possible—But," says she, "to drop this disagreeable Subject; I have News to tell you—Mr. Reddy and a fine foppish Gentleman are at Mr. Fainall's, and have been backwards and forwards some Time." "Say you so, Madam!" I replied, "I am got upon the right Scent—There springs all this Confusion—Let us take a Walk that Way. Has *Fainall* been to see Miss *Heartly* yet?" "Yes," she answered, "but she will not admit him." "No Matter," I replied, "I will call upon him, and introduce him myself, else I shall never get out the Truth; and it is necessary to her Brother's Peace, that she sees him—so I would have you prepare her, and I will bring *Fainall* with me."

ACCORDINGLY, as if by Accident, I called upon him; and, very luckily, his Friends were gone to *London*. He very readily told me *Gayton* and he had made it up, and that he and another Gentleman had been pretty much with him lately. In Return, I let him know I had spoke to Mr. *Heartly*, as he desired me, and that Affair was also made up: "But," says he, "I cannot make it up with the Sister." "Oh!" I answered, "come along with me, and I will try what is to be done." He thanked me, and we went together.

I DID

I DID not find her, for a good while, so compliant as I could wish: However at last a Reconciliation was made, I am convinced, to their mutual Satisfaction, and he had Liberty to renew his Visits.

AFTER Dinner, I took him aside; and, after being loaded with Thanks for the great Service I had done, I asked him some Questions, relative to the Discovery I wanted to make; and, after promising him his Name should never be mentioned, I got the following Account from him—That, when *Heartly* and I came down here, *Gayton* generally came just before us, employed his Man to watch us, and constantly sent him away with a Letter before we went, always charging him to make the utmost Haste—That he once heard *Gayton* say, He would be even with *Heartly*, but that he never was privy to what was in any of the Letters.

I, BEING now perfectly satisfied, thought it would be no difficult Matter to make Miss *Freeborn* ashamed of her Suspicions; though, within my own Mind I resolved she should feel a little. After *Fainall* was gone, I asked *Clarinda* what answer I should carry to the Letter? She answered, “None.” “Come,” said I, “let me indite one, and you copy it,” and then told her my Intention: Adding, “This little Quarrel will occasion a great deal of Mirth one Day or another”—Upon which I wrote as follows:

“MADAM,

"MADAM,
 "I AM a good deal surprized at the Al-
 "teration in your Stile—I endeavour to
 "conform to it—This puts an End to our
 "Correspondence. My sincere Compliments
 "to Mr. *Heartly*; and tell him, I take it
 "unkind he lets his Friend come alone.
 "My Conquest I am proud of; and, if my
 "powerful Charms can secure it, they shall.
 "I am, Madam, Yours,
 "ANNA-MARIA STEDDY."

THIS, at my Return, I took an Opportunity to give to Miss *Freeborn* when she was alone, and I perceiv'd it made her quite uneasy. "What is the Matter, Miss?" I said; "I hope I have brought you no News which can occasion you any Vexation." "I am mad," she replied—Read this—My Suspicions are too true—The Creature owns it—My Friends have been true Friends—I have had a faithful Account—Base *Heartly*, "I know nothing," I said, after I had read the Letter, "which could occasion this Alteration of Stile—You must inform me of that—Indeed I think I am oblig'd to you for shewing it to me, for I should not otherwise have known how much Miss *Steddy* regards me—I shall grow proud of myself." "Regard you! You have no Eyes!—It is *Heartly* she means," she answered;

“swered ; you are their Dupe, as well as I
 “—The Sorcerers !—But let him take her !”

“Miss,” I replied, “you make me
 “ashamed of your groundless Suspicions.
 “Miss *Steddy* has agreed to leave it to your
 “Father ; and, when he has given his Opin-
 “ion what Provision is to be made for her,
 “she has assured me she will make no un-
 “necessary Delays. You wrong my Friend,
 “by your Conduct—A Man who loves you.
 “By your ill-grounded Jealousy, you wrong
 “a young Lady of Merit—Will my Mar-
 “riage with her open your Eyes?—Have
 “your good Friends told you, *Heartly* and
 “I have agreed to be married on one Day?
 “—I assure you I know your Story-bringer,
 “and her Agents—I know too their Reasons
 “for acting so—What did you ever observe
 “in *Heartly*’s Behaviour, that you can sus-
 “pect him capable of acting the Villain’s
 “Part?—Capable of being false to you and
 “me — In *Love* and *Friendship* both you
 “make him a Villain.”

“My God !” said she, “where would
 “you drive me to? I would think as well
 “of him as you do, but I cannot.” “In-
 “deed, Miss, you have no other Reason,” I
 “answered. “What a Fret that Letter has
 “put you into, which I indited myself—In-
 “deed Miss *Steddy* pities you. she showed
 “me your short Epistle, and you have a
 “proper Answer.” “You indite it !” She
 “replied—“What a Fool have I been !—Does
 “*Heartly*

“*Heartly* know it?” I assured her he did not, and told her how *Gayton* had acted—
 “Then,” she cry’d out, “I am ruined—
 “*Heartly* will despise me—I have received
 “Letters from *Gayton*, tho’ I have never answered them. What will *Heartly* say!—
 “—How will Miss *Steddy* look upon me!—
 “I am lost for ever!”

SHE now really claimed my Assistance; and I gave it as my Advice, when Miss *Lamour* came again, to tell her, She thanked her for her Friendship, but, as she found Mr. *Heartly* was to be her Husband, she thought herself obliged to return Mr. *Gayton*’s Letters: “And if she refuses to carry them
 “back,” I added, “tell her, in a peremptory
 “Manner, you will then engage me to do
 “it, for I will not have *Heartly* at all appear
 “in it—At a proper Time he shall know all.
 “In the mean Time, re-assume your good
 “Humour, and take your own Opportunity
 “to inform him—It will be better from you
 “than me.”

SHE was very much oblig’d to me, and acted as I directed. She informed me, Miss *Lamour* was astonished when she gave her the Letters back, but that she took them. She was now perfectly at Peace, in her own Mind; and so prudently discovered all to *Heartly*, that he was satisfied even with her Jealousy, as it proceeded from her Love.

C H A P. X.

Mr. Williams and his Aunt come to Town. Her Account of her Husband and herself. A Journey into the Country. A Quarrel. A Reconciliation. Many Matters of Consequence, and a Prospect of three Weddings.

AFTER every Thing was settled to the Satisfaction of Mr. *Freeborn*, in his Family, by the Recovery of his Daughter, we agreed to pay Miss *Steddy* a Visit; and *Heartly*, Miss, and I went. When the young Ladies met, Miss *Freeborn* said, “My Dear, “forgive me: I am ashamed to see you, but “I have brought two Advocates—I will never “offend you more.”

THIS was soon granted, and she was oblig’d to bear a few satirical Strokes. Mr. *Fainall* waited upon *Heartly*, and had his Permission to court his Sister. He informed me, That *Gayton* had receiv’d a Packet, which seem’d greatly to discompose his Schemes—“I guess “it did,” I replied; as I concluded, Miss *Lamour* had sent him his Letters again.

In the Evening, as we were walking out, we met *Gayton* and *Reddy*. *Reddy* knew *Clarinda*; and, among his Compliments, told her, If he had known she had been there, he should have waited upon her: Adding, “I see Mr. *A*—— is with you—Your Fortune secures you Admirers.” To which *Clarinda* replied, “Sir, shall I inform him
“ what

“ what you say ?” “ No, by no Means,” he answered ; it is only my Conjecture, Miss —I beg Pardon.”

GAYTON whispered Miss *Freeborn*, That it was cruel to return his Letters—It was a severe Punishment. She answered, “ Sir, “ I was disordered, and an artful Advantage taken of my Disorder : I am now recovered, and find myself imposed upon. When “ I was ill, I received them ; now I am well, “ I have not thought them worth keeping. “ Your kind Friend, I suppose, gave you my “ Reasons.”—Upon which he and Mr. *Reddy* continued their Walk.

WE were very merry at Mr. *Gayton*’s Punishment and Mr. *Reddy*’s Conjecture, when we were informed of them : And nothing could have happened better, for *Hearily* was yet a Stranger to her having had any Letters ; but finding they were returned, with so good an Excuse for having received them, it passed over beyond my Expectation.

WHEN we came back to Town, I was agreeably surprized to find Mr. *Williams* was in *London*. He had accompany’d his Aunt, for the Pleasure, as he told her, of paying me a Visit. She was at Mr. *Freeborn*’s, but he, finding me out of Town, was gone to the *Blue-Boar Inn*, in *Holborn* ; thither I hurried, and found him. He then informed me of the real Business which brought him up ; “ For,” said he, “ merely to see you, had “ not now brought me from Home—It was
“ some

“ some Inducement—But a Relation of my
 “ Uncle’s left him, when it was imagined
 “ he was lost, for no one could give any Ac-
 “ count of him, one Hundred Pounds *per*
 “ *Annum*. This was left in Trust for him,
 “ and was to be given to him, if ever he
 “ was found ; or to his Children, if he left
 “ any—My Aunt knows nothing of this.
 “ When I came to my Estate, as there was
 “ no News of my Uncle, I claimed it as
 “ next Heir ; but, not chusing to involve
 “ myself in a Law-Suit, as I could not prove
 “ his Death, I dropped my Claim, and I
 “ believe the Executors of the Trustees have
 “ long considered the Estate as their own.
 “ They have sold a great deal of Timber
 “ lately off it ; and for the Pleasure of see-
 “ ing these Gentlemen undeceived, and re-
 “ imburse, is the true Motive of this long
 “ Journey.”

I STAYED with him at his Inn all Night,
 and the next Day introduced him to Mr.
Freeborn ; to whom he told the Story, and
 named who were the Trustees, and who
 were the present acting ones under their
 Wills. Mr. *Freeborn* shook his Head, say-
 ing, “ I know some of them—It will be a
 “ most mortifying Stroke. The Arrears
 “ are pretty long : However, we will say
 “ nothing yet, but let it rest. Is the Estate
 “ near you, Sir ? ” “ Yes,” answered Mr.
Williams, “ with a very pretty House upon
 “ it, but that is gone to Ruin”—“ Well
 then,”

then," he replied, " it must be repaired ; but
 " there is no Reason to tell Mrs. *Williams*
 " about it. We will go to the Gentlemen
 " To-morrow, and hear what they say. I
 " should be glad to surprize her with her
 " good Fortune, without her being at any
 " Trouble"—When being told Dinner was
 ready, we went into the Parlour.

AFTER we had dined, Mr. *Freeborn* asked
 Mrs. *Williams* several Questions, relating to
 her Husband ; as where he had resided, be-
 fore he settled at *Lisbon*, &c. saying, " It is
 " not above ten Years since he came there"
 —Upon which she gave us the following Ac-
 count.

" THE first Knowledge I had of Mr.
 " *Williams* was in the *East-Indies*, where I
 " was born. He came over in the Compa-
 " ny's Service, at about sixteen Years of
 " Age, by the Name of *Hazard*. This is
 " forty Years ago—I was but a little Girl.
 " He behaved himself extremely well, and
 " as he advanced still in Years was promo-
 " ted. As I grew up, he made his Ad-
 " dresses to me ; and, when I was about
 " Eighteen, we were married, with my
 " Father's Consent.

" ON the Morning of the Wedding-Day
 " he came to my Father, and, with great
 " Uneasiness, told him, He had a Secret to
 " impart to him ; and then informed him,
 " that his Name was not *Hazard*, but *Wil-*
 " *liams*, of a considerable Family (as I find
 " it)

“ it) in the West of *England*: That he had
 “ run away from his Friends, and did not
 “ desire they should ever know where he
 “ was, or what became of him; yet, lest
 “ his Children should be prejudiced, he
 “ thought it proper to tell him, and desired
 “ we might be married by his real Name,
 “ though we should still go by that of *Ha-*
 “ *zard*. This my Father esteemed as a
 “ Proof of his Honesty; and the Ceremony
 “ was perform’d, and my Certificate, pro-
 “ perly witness’d, is in the Name of *Wil-*
 “ *liams*.

“ AFTER my Father’s Death, having con-
 “ tracted an Intimacy with a *Portuguese*, he
 “ obtained Leave to quit the Company’s ser-
 “ vice, and came with his Friend and settled
 “ at *Lisbon*; where, concluding all Enquiry
 “ was over concerning him, he assumed
 “ again his real Name; since which Time,
 “ you know his Affairs better than myself.
 “ We had several Children; but only the
 “ Daughter, who is at the Boarding-School,
 “ is living.”

MR. *Williams*, perceiving she had done,
 said, “ Madam, you have not told us what
 “ he did, that occasion’d him to leave his
 “ Friends.” She reply’d, She never had
 heard. “ Then,” he answered, “ I can in-
 “ form you. My Great-Uncle was very fond
 “ of his Garden, and had in it what was, at
 “ that Time of Day, reckoned very fine
 “ Fruit. My Uncle, thinking he was too
 “ sparing

“ sparing of it, one Night robbed him of
 “ the best. The old Gentleman was angry,
 “ yet had no Suspicion of his Nephew ; who,
 “ having an Accomplice, and a great Re-
 “ ward being offered, fearful of a Discovery,
 “ run away. Some Time after he was
 “ gone, he sent a Letter to let him know,
 “ he was the Person who took his Fruit :
 “ That being ashamed of what he had done,
 “ he could never bear to see him again, and
 “ had taken Care he would not be discover-
 “ ed. Indeed he made bold, when he went
 “ away, with a few Guineas, and a remark-
 “ able Medal of King *Charles* the First.
 “ The old Gentleman laughed at the Loss
 “ of his Money, saying, The young Rogue
 “ was not to be blamed for taking a little to
 “ support him.” “ The Medal, Sir,” said
 “ Mrs. *Williams*, I have now.”

AFTER Dinner *Williams*, his Aunt, and I
 went to the School, to see his Cousin. Miss
 was greatly pleased, as thinking the Time of
 her Release was come ; but her Mamma had
 no such Intention. She was very well satis-
 fied with the Care taken of her there, and
 prudently thought Restraint could do no Pre-
 judice to one, who had showed herself so
 ready to make an ill Use of Liberty. Mrs.
Williams told her, how kindly she had been
 received by her Father’s Relations, and what
 Figure they made in the Country ; and that,
 at a proper Time, she should be sent for
 from School.

My

My Friend, as we returned, expressed great Pleasure in seeing his Niece, but thought she was too old to be kept at School; yet, when he knew the Reason, he acquiesced. The next Day, according to Appointment, Mr. *Freeborn*, Mr. *Williams*, and I went among the Trustees. They were greatly embarrassed, yet they all agreed in one Answer, *viz.* That they were ready to resign their Trust and come to an Account, but they must have full Satisfaction the Husband of Mrs. *Williams* was really the Person meant in the Will. Mr. *Freeborn* answered, he could not tell what Proof they might expect: That the Heir at Law was present, and acknowledged Mrs. *Williams*'s Claim: That the Time of his coming to the *East-Indies*, his Age, and his own Caution in being married in his real Name, though he went long after by a fictitious one, were, he thought, sufficient Proofs: That, unless he had come to *England*, it was impossible to bring other. Indeed had he lived to have made the Claim himself, some old People might have been found to have supported it upon Evidence. That Mrs. *Williams*'s Circumstances were above her thinking to impose upon them: Adding, "Even now she does not know what she is intitled to"—However, at last it was agreed, they should all meet in the Evening.

Mrs. *Williams*, upon our Return was acquainted with the Business we had been upon;

on; and received Assurances from her Nephew of his Assistance, in Case she was obliged to have Recourse to Law. Mr. *Freeborn* was of Opinion, they would not go to Law: In which *Heartly* joined, saying, "I think, if any Thing makes them stick out, it will be the Point of refunding; for though they have divided but a Trifle a Year among them, it amounts to a good deal now to return. If it was mine, rather than be plagu'd with a ten Years Suit, may be, I would take it as it is, and be contented."

Mrs. *Williams* agreed to leave it to Mr. *Freeborn* and her Nephew, and she would abide by their Resolutions. "Madam," said her Nephew, "I have a Copy of my Uncle's Will; and pray favour me with the Medal, it may be of Use."

In the Evening we went again, and found the four Gentlemen together. They seemed a good while to insist upon not giving up the Trust, till they were compelled. Mr. *Williams* then asked them, If they had a Copy of the Will with them? They answered, they had not. "Then I have," said he, and produced it. In it was this Clause; *I bequeath also to my Nephew, the Medal of King Charles the First; which is marked with the Initials of my own Name, and which is now in his Custody.* "Now, Gentlemen, this Medal has luckily been preserved, and been in
F my

“ my Aunt’s keeping ever since the Day
“ of her Marriage : This, sure, is a suffici-
“ ent Proof.”

AT last, after many Arguments, it was agreed, That they would deliver up the Estate, and allow Four Hundred Pounds towards Repairs ; which was accepted, and we parted. Mrs. *Williams* was satisfied ; and all Things considered, it was as well as we could expect, without Trouble or Expence. I then engaged *Williams* to bear me Company the next Day a few Miles, to which he readily consented ; and, about Noon, we came to Mrs. *Heartly*’s, where he expressed great Satisfaction at seeing *Clarinda* again. She then told me, Mr. *Reddy* had been to pay her a Visit ; but happening not to know her Name, was denied, and went about his Business in seeming Dudgeon. “ What,” says *Williams*, “ is that busy Gentleman on
“ this Side of the Country ? We had him
“ some Time ago in the West, but his Ambition occasioned his leaving us. He fancied himself in Love with an Heiress, and
“ teized her so with his Impertinence, that
“ the Gentleman, who made his Addresses
“ to her, threaten’d to cudgel him.” “ Poor
“ *Reddy* !” replied *Clarinda*, “ he is very
“ unfortunate in his Love. He makes Love
“ in every Place he resides at, and meets in
“ Return with nothing but Contempt.” I answered, That was very true, but it was owing to his addressing himself out of his
Sphere ;

Sphere ; and it was my Opinion, that yet he would carry Miss *Lamour*.

WHILE we were discoursing, Mr. *Reddy* came and enquired for me ; and, being admitted, immediately addressed himself to *Clarinda*—"Madam," said he, "I did myself the Honour Yesterday to enquire for you, and I was told you was not here." "Pray, Sir," said *Clarinda*, "who did you enquire for?" "for Miss C—," he replied. "Sir," said she, "that is not my Name—" "My Name is *Steddy*." "Goodluck !" he replied, "how should I know that ! But Women change their Names, when they marry—I did not really think you had been a Widow." Nor am I one," she answered. "It is no Business of mine," said he, "indeed ; yet I cannot conceive how it is !" "No," said *Williams* ; suppose the young Lady has changed her Name for a Fortune that is left her." "Aye, indeed," cried *Reddy*, "I never thought of that—But so much the better for Mr. A—, ha !" Then turning to *Williams*, "Sir, I think you married Miss *Merit*—A very pretty Lady ; I hope she is well."—Then to me, "Sir, I should be glad to speak with you"—Upon which I took him into the Garden ; where I was informed, That he found no Likelihood of succeeding with Miss *Lamour* ; that she used him worse than ever ; that his Pocket could not long hold out in the Com-

pany he kept, and wished I would tell him what he could do.

I SINCERELY told him my Advice was, That he should purchase some Place before his Fortune was quite exhausted; and to avoid making Love, by all Means.—“What! and “never see her more!” he sighed out. “Nay, Sir,” said I, “if you are so fond of “ill Usage, pray pursue your own Course.” “Nay,” he answered, “I have Reason to “believe *Gayton* and she are too great—I saw “something between them I did not like, so “I will resolve to follow your Advice.”—So taking his Leave of me, he went to *Fainall*’s, where I understood Miss *Lamour* and *Gayton* were.

It happen’d that Afternoon I went to Mr. *Fainall*’s, where I found they had been in great Confusion. *Reddy* had breathed out his Love and Suspicions together to Miss *Lamour*, when he was preparing to take his last Adieu. She grew angry, and had thrown a Whip-sillabub in his Face, and *Gayton* had horse-whipped him: At last, upon disbelieving his own Eyes, and asking Pardon, she had forgiven him, imputing his Mistake to his Love; and, just as I enter’d, she was saying, “Well, I find you love me in Ear-
“nest; for the future, Mr. *Reddy*, I will
“use you better”—and very familiarly ask’d me, If she was not too good-natur’d, to pardon a Wretch who had dared to impeach her Character? I readily guessed why he was
re-admitted

re-admitted into Favour, and concluded it would soon be a Match; tho' I intended, if it was in my Power, to prevent it.

As we had no great Business in Town, and was happy in being with *Clarinda*, we agreed to stay *Sunday* over. On the *Saturday* came *Heartly* and Miss *Freeborn*, late in the Evening; telling us, They came to see if we were run away; "Though," says Miss, "my Papa excuses Mr. *A*—, and says he ought to make Hay while the Sun shines: We expect him and Mrs. *Williams* here To morrow Morning betimes—They have given us a Sort of a Promise."

HER Speech occasioned *Williams* to look at me, and then at *Clarinda*. She blushed, and he smiled. "Well," says he, "I imagined it, and now I am confirmed—I think it ought to be no otherwise—I am no Stranger to the Passion he once professed for you." "Oh! Sir," cried Miss *Freeborn*, "then you have seen that Lady before." Yes, Miss," he answered, "and she is surprizingly good-natur'd." "Very well, Miss *Steddy*," she replied; "my Papa has no Occasion to be consulted—Well, I am sure he will be pleased."

CLARINDA was in some Confusion, but at last said; "Since it is out, let it go. I do not deny that I had a Regard for Mr. *A*—; but, finding him engaged to one more deserving, I could only resolve to have no one. Since he has been

“ at Liberty to make another Choice, he
 “ has addressed himself to me—he best can
 “ tell his Reception—Tho’ I am almost an-
 “ gry with Mr. *Williams* for telling so
 “ much.” “ Indeed,” said I, “ it is my
 “ Fault: I never intended to keep any
 “ Thing a Secret from my Friends, but I
 “ thought Mr. *Williams* would readily have
 “ guessed my Business, when I brought him
 “ here to see you. As to Mr. *Hearthly*, it is
 “ his Fault Miss *Steddy*, as well as Miss *Free-*
 “ *born*, have not changed their Names.”
 Miss *Freeborn*, colouring, said, “ I think I
 “ have Reason to be angry now.” “ In-
 “ deed I think you have,” I answered,
 “ with Mr. *Hearthly*, for delaying our Hap-
 “ piness so long:” *Hearthly* replied, “ Every
 “ Thing is near ready, and then let us see
 “ who makes Delays.”

IN the Morning came Mr. *Freeborn* and
 Mrs. *Williams*; and, about Eleven, Mr.
Fainall and *Reddy*, to call us to Church. I
 asked where the rest of his Visitors were?
 And *Fainall* answered, “ Not Half dressed;
 “ they intend to come to Church, but it
 “ will be late first.”

IN the Middle of Sermon accordingly, in
 came *Gayton* and Miss *Lamour*. She seem’d
 a good deal dashed, to see so many together.
Clarinda and she regarded one another pretty
 much. *Gayton* indeed had seen her before,
 and, by his whispering, gave her what In-
 formation he could: For after Service, after
 her

her Compliments to the Company, she told me, She was glad to find that I was not so insensible as she thought me.

As *Heartly* found Mr. *Fainall* had renewed his Visits, he enquir'd of his Mother upon what Footing he came? Who answered him, She believed his Sister had no Dislike to Mr. *Fainall*, and, if he did not disapprove of it, it might be a Match. He said, as before, He had no Objection, but would have his Sister consider well: Adding, "My own
" Wedding will be soon, and, if they are
" agreed, her's may be at the same Time."

Mr. *Freeborn* had been informed by his Daughter, that Miss *Steddy* and I were agreed, and he was very pleasant upon her. She assured him, she had designed to have acquainted him; "Yes, yes," he replied,
" you would have asked my Advice, after
" you had determin'd to follow your own.
" I am glad, however, your Resolution
" agrees with the Advice I should have
" given. You Brides will keep one another
" in Countenance, for I hear we are to have
" three Weddings at once. I insist upon
" giving the Dinner; and, if you have not
" engaged yourself, I offer to be your Fa-
" ther." "That, Sir," she answered, "I
" promise you, you shall."

Mr. *Freeborn* afterwards called me Son, as he came to me in the Garden—I was startled—"O!" says he, "I am informed
" how Things are settled. Miss *Steddy* has

“ promis’d me to be Father, so I may call
 “ you Son—But pray no more of these sly
 “ Doings—I must have no private Marriage,
 “ for I am resolved to have the sole Order-
 “ ing and Management of these Weddings.”
 I assured him, I had no Intention to have
 been married without his being privy to it,
 and he should do as he pleased.

IN the Evening *Reddy* and *Fainall* came ;
 and said, *Gayton* and Miss *Lamour* were gone
 for *London*, greatly chagrin’d. *Fainall* in-
 formed me, by Way of Secret, That his
 House-keeper had told him she was sure Miss
Lamour was with Child : Adding, “ I do
 “ not know what to think of it! Their Be-
 “ haviour, to be sure, to one another is
 “ very familiar, and gives Reason for Sus-
 “ picion?” “ *Fainall*,” said I, “ by your
 “ own Desire, I have again introduced you
 “ to Miss *Heartly*, and your Addresses are
 “ countenanc’d by her Brother. You have
 “ seen the gay World, and in Time left the
 “ Follies of it. Miss *Lamour* will, by no
 “ Means, be a fit Acquaintance for Mrs.
 “ *Fainall*; and as you have lately been kind
 “ to *Reddy*, let me beg of you, if you can,
 “ to prevent his Marriage there. I am cer-
 “ tain he is only intended to be the Screen
 “ for *Gayton*’s Vices. Tell *Reddy* your own
 “ Suspicions, and put him upon his Guard.
 “ If your House-keeper judges right, *Gayton*
 “ will be in a Hurry to get her off his
 “ Hands;

“ Hands, and she will wheedle *Reddy* into a sudden Marriage.”

FAINALL assured me he would, and that for the future he would not countenance them at his House: “ For,” says he, “ I plainly see they are not agreeable to those I must, and would live well with, if I am so happy as to carry Miss *Heartly*: Yet, tho’ she receives my Visits, I can get nothing out of her, nor can I discover whether she now will have me or not.” I afterwards hinted this to *Heartly*, and, in the Morning before he went to Town, he spoke pretty roundly to his Sister, telling her, He did not understand her coquetish Airs; that he desired her to give Mr. *Fainall* his Answer; “ For, I assure you,” said he, “ if I find you encourage his Visits, I shall take it for granted he is agreeable to you, and my Wedding-Day shall be yours.”

Mr. *Freeborn*, he, and Mrs. *Williams* went to Town, leaving Miss *Freeborn* with us. It was easy to observe Miss *Heartly* was out of Humour. She had a good deal of artful Cunning, and, tho’ she was far from handsome, expected a great deal of Courtship; and did not know how to tell the Man she liked, she would give him her Consent. At last she unburthened herself to Miss *Steddy* and Miss *Freeborn*, complaining how hard she was used. They were against her, and told her, They thought her Brother had acted right: Miss *Steddy* telling her, She would

tell Mr. *Fainall* herself, “ And then you
 “ may deny you like him, if you can. Miss
 “ *Freeborn* makes no Secret of the Esteem
 “ she has for your Brother; I have owned
 “ mine for Mr. *A—*; and, when Mr.
 “ *Fainall* comes again, you shall give him
 “ his Answer.”

SHE was a good deal confounded; but it
 happen'd, as his Company was gone, he
 came just as we had dined. She reddened,
 and the two Misses tittered, and left the
 Room—*Williams* and I followed them—Mrs.
Heartly was out. “ What's the Matter La-
 “ dies?” said *Williams*. “ You will know
 “ by and by,” answered *Clarinda*. Present-
 ly came *Fainall* and Miss *Heartly*. “ Well,
 “ what does she say?” said Miss *Freeborn*.
 “ Why, Miss, at last,” replied *Fainall*, “ she
 “ leaves it to her Brother.” “ If it is come
 “ to that,” I said, “ she knows her Bro-
 “ ther's Mind, I assure you; and you may
 “ suppose yourself as happy as you please:
 “ Though, Miss, I think, you might have
 “ taken the Merit of disposing of yourself,
 “ to yourself.” “ Well then,” she replied,
 “ I will;” and, turning to *Fainall*, said,
 “ The same Day these Ladies dispose of
 “ themselves, I give you Leave to call me
 “ yours.”

C H A P. XI.

*Some Account of Miss Lamour's Transactions.
An Arrest. An Escape—And other Affairs
of great Importance.*

WE passed our Time here very agreeably, and *Fainall* had taken a good deal of Pains, and removed some of the Mist from Mr. *Reddy's* Eyes. He began to find he was imposed upon; and, being civilly treated by all our Company, that he had lately kept lessened in his Opinion. He observed to *Fainall*, there was a great Difference between the Behaviour of our Ladies and Miss *Lamour's*; and said, He was greatly obliged to me, for some Favours I had done him. This, one Morning, *Fainall* told me before him,

I VERY frankly let *Reddy* know, that an Alteration in his Behaviour pleased; and it was his own Fault, if something better was not done for him—That it was in Mr. *Williams's* Power, and I believed he intended it, if he found he endeavoured to merit his Favour. He seemed greatly pleased, and promised to be very circumspect in his Actions.—In the Afternoon, he brought me the following Letter, he had just received.

“ S I R,

“ I HAVE no Reasons to give any Credit to the Professions you at Times have

“ made

“ made me, or you would find Time to come
 “ to Town. I am silly enough to miss your
 “ Company. If you have any Sincerity in
 “ you, let me see you. *Gayton* says, he misses
 “ his Friend.

“ *I am Yours,*

“ CATHERINE LAMOUR.”

I ASKED him, What Answer this was to
 “ have? I think,” he answered, “ good
 “ Manners obliges me to go and see her—
 “ How kindly she invites me!” “ And I
 “ think,” I replied, “ you must not. Write
 “ an Answer—Pretend any Excuse; but go
 “ not by any Means. Here comes Mr.
 “ *Williams*, he shall decide between our dif-
 “ ferent Opinions.” He was of mine—
 “ Write, write,” he said; “ by all Means,
 “ excuse yourself—But pray favour us with
 “ a Sight of your Letter. It is not right to
 “ ask it, but one Day or another you shall
 “ know my Reason.” Accordingly he went
 into the Parlour, and the young Ladies, seeing
 him about Business, came to us. He soon
 returned, and, giving me his Answer, said,
 “ I think it short, but smart.” It contained
 as follows:

“ Dear Miss *Lamour*,

“ **Y**OURS was a Cordial to me — Can
 “ you then think of me!—How hard
 “ is my Lot, that I cannot on the Wings of
 “ Love obey your Summons! I have pro-
 “ mised

“ mised my Friends my Company — If I
 “ break my Promise, what will they think?
 “ If I do not come, what will you think?
 “ How I struggle between Love and Friend-
 “ ship! Love bids me go—Friendship bids
 “ me stay. I will obtain Leave, as soon as I
 “ can, and come: ’Till when, if I am not
 “ blessed with the Sight of you before, be-
 “ lieve me to be,

“ From Mrs.	“ Dear Miss,
“ Heartly’s	“ Your most sincere
“ Parlour,	“ And humble Admirer,
“ in Haste.	“ ANT. REDDY.”

I LAUGHED to myself at reading it—The
 Excuse was indeed true, but then I found he
 was not sufficiently weaned from his silly
 Passion for her. *Clarinda* asked, What I
 laughed at? “ My Letter, I suppose, Miss,”
 “ answered *Reddy*. I just received this agree-
 “ able Invitation from the young Lady who
 “ was at Church on *Sunday*, and Mr. *Wil-*
 “ *liams* and Mr. *A*—— will not let me go—
 “ Here is her Billet, and this is my Answer.”
 “ Oh! Sir,” she replied, after she had read
 “ them, they use you too severely—They
 “ might have spared your Company, to com-
 “ ply with a Lady’s Request.” “ I think so,
 “ Miss,” he said; “ I had as well go.”
 “ No, no,” she answered, “ we all beg you
 “ to stay. “ It is very obliging,” answered
Reddy; “ then I will,” and away he sent his
 Letter.

Letter. By the Return of the Post came a second, to this Purport :

“ SIR,
 “ **Y**OUR Vows were false, and I am
 “ rightly served, who gave any Credit
 “ to them—Do not tell me of your Love and
 “ Friendship ! But, if ever you expect to see
 “ my Face, come to me immediately. I am
 “ not used to ask so trifling a Favour, and be
 “ denied.

“ CATHERINE LAMOUR.”

THIS he showed to *Fainall*, and was preparing to go with all Speed, when *Williams* and I dropped in. “ Whither now,” said I, “ booted and spurred ?” Upon which he told us ; and that he should lose her for ever, if he did not go. We would not suffer him, obliging him to write another Excuse ; tho’ it cost us some Pains, to persuade him from his ruining himself. At last he wrote as follows :

“ Dear Miss *Lamour*,
 “ **I** AM the most unhappy Creature living !
 “ —I gave you cogent Reasons for my
 “ not coming at your first Invitation—They
 “ still subsist. I will come, possibly, within
 “ a Fortnight ; ’till when, let me beg you
 “ to take no Resolution to the Prejudice, dear
 “ Miss *Lamour*, of

“ Your most sincere and faithful Admirer,
 “ ANTHONY REDDY.”

WHEN

WHEN this was gone, and my Gentleman's Boots off again, *Williams* said to him, "Sir, you ought to be very thankful for this our accidental Visit: Had we not come, I am mistaken if you had not, by To-morrow this Time, have been ruined—you would have been married"—and then let him into some of Miss *Lamour's* Behaviour. *Reddy* stared, and answered, That as she was a Fortune, it was possible, though he had promised he would not marry without my Knowledge, he might, if he had found her willing. "A Fortune!" said I, "Mr. *Reddy*; pray how long would a Thousand Pounds have lasted you and her? She is ready to have you, and if, after what you have heard, you are ready to have her, pray draw on your Boots again, and ride away. A little Delay can do no Harm—see what Answer you have: But if you expect any Friendship from us, you must not mention a Tittle of this. If you still are willing to have her, stay three or four Months, I am sure then you will thank us for our Advice." He reply'd, He really loved her; but, as he was sensible we were above raising any Report without a proper Foundation, he would be entirely ruled by us. We were just upon going, when the three young Ladies came to fetch us; but, at Mr. *Fainall's* Entreaty, we all supped there.

WE heard no more of the Affair 'till the Fortnight's End, and then *Gayton* and Miss *Lamour*

Lamour came down, but went back the next Morning. *Reddy* told us freely, he was fully convinced of their having a Design upon him: That *Gayton* had pressed him to take *Miss* in the Humour she was; saying, “She is now
 “ of Age, and will have her Fortune immediately. I have done all I can to persuade
 “ her, as I promised, and it is your own
 “ Fault if you have her not: And *Miss*
 “ treated me very civilly, said *Reddy*;
 “ however, I got off—But when we parted;
 “ *Gayton* told me, I should repent it.” *Fainall* said, It was a very droll Scene; *Miss Lamour* using all her Art to coax *Reddy*, eyeing him with the utmost Tenderness, and softly squeezing his Hand, to lure him to Destruction.

HEARTLY often came backwards and forwards, and, being acquainted with the Story, said almost every Body spoke pretty freely of her, and Mr. *Freeborn* had paid her Money; telling her, He was going to retire from Business, and he should concern himself with nothing more than his own Affairs. One Day, when he was with us, *Reddy* came running in, frightened to Death, and crying out, “Hide me! hide me! for God’s sake, hide
 “ me!” and whipped into a Closet, and shut himself in. Presently came two Men on Horseback, and Half the Village with them, saying, *Reddy* had robbed those two Gentlemen, and begged we would not screen him.

I CONFESS

I CONFESS these Gentlemen, as they were stiled, had much more the Looks of Highwaymen than poor *Reddy*; but, when the Matter was enquired into, it appear'd they had arrested him, as he was riding out, and insisted upon carrying him with them, without giving him Leave to send for any one; and, as they rode along, he had taken an Opportunity to gallop from them: That they cryed out, Stop Highwayman, in hopes to have re-taken him. Mr. *Williams* said, "I have served the Office of High-Sheriff myself, and if an Officer of mine had dared to have done so, I would have broke him. Suppose this Gentleman had been shot? I think you two would have deserv'd hanging." Upon hearing this, the Countrymen were angry; and, if we had given them the least Encouragement, the two Gentlemen had undergone the Discipline of the Horse-pond.

THE Principal begged we would not conceal the Prisoner; for as they had him in Custody, and the Debt was large, it would be their Ruin. I answered, I hoped he did not expect we should Set for him; and, when he had him, he might have kept him: And then asked him, what was the Sum? and at whose Suit? He replied, At Mr. *Gayton's*, for One Hundred Pounds. "And where," said I, "were you carrying the Prisoner?" He answered, "To the Castle at *Kingston*, where

where the Plaintiff and a young Lady were waiting."

I BID them stay a little, and we would consider what was to be done. Upon which we went in, and *Fainall*, hearing the Affair, came to us. We told *Reddy* what they said—"As I hope for Mercy," cry'd he, "I never borrow'd one Halfpenny of him in my whole Life." At last I propos'd to *Williams*, that we should all offer Bail; saying, "I imagined, they wanted to get *Reddy* to them, and frighten him into a Marriage." They agreed to the Proposal, and Mr. *Williams* went to the Officers, and told them, They need be under no Concern for the Escape of their Prisoner, for the Gentlemen and himself would give Bail. The Officers answered, They had Orders not to take Bail. Mr. *Williams* replied, They could not refuse it; but they might go as they came, for they should not enter that House: However, at last they accepted it, and we all were his Bail, and away went the Catchpoles.

ALL this Time poor *Reddy* lay snug in the Closet, but, finding they were gone, he ventured out. *Clarinda* had offer'd him something to drink, but he thanked her, and said, It was Time enough; asking her, If she thought we would let them search the House? "Well, Mr. *Reddy*," said I, "now you are again at Liberty, how happened this?" "Why," he answered, "I was riding out to take the Air a little, and, about two
" Miles

“ Miles off, two Men came up to me. One
 “ of them asked if my Name was *Reddy*?
 “ I replied, Yes. Then, said he, I have an
 “ Action against you for an Hundred Pounds.
 “ Against me! I cry’d; I owe Nobody any
 “ Thing. I do not care for that, he said;
 “ you must go along with us to *Kingston*;
 “ and, if you cannot agree it, to Jail.

“ LORD have Mercy upon me! I thought,
 “ what must I do! So I answered him, I
 “ would go with him, but desired him to
 “ use me civilly: Though I should be ob-
 “ liged to him to let me speak to some
 “ Friends first, for I had but Two or Three
 “ Shillings about me. Not he, he swore;
 “ I should go with him—Upon which I
 “ clapped Spurs to my Horse, and, thanks
 “ to his Goodness, came hither as fast as he
 “ could bring me. It was a sudden Thought,
 “ and, without Hesitation, I put it in Exe-
 “ cution.”

As we found *Gayton* and (as we imagined)
 Miss *Lamour* were at the *Castle* at *Kingston*,
 Mr. *Williams* called his Man, and bid him
 ride as fast as he could thither, and bring
 what Intelligence he could. In the Evening
 the Man returned, and informed us, there
 had been great Cursing and Swearing—That
 he got thither before the Bailiffs a little, and,
 when they came, a Gentleman run out to
 them, and asked them, “ Where was their
 “ Prisoner?” Upon which one of them an-
 swered, “ He had escaped, but they had got
 “ good

“ good Bail.” “ D—n your Bail,” he replied, “ I ordered you to take no Bail. My
 “ Man said he saw you take him two Miles
 “ from the Village, what did you let him go
 “ back for?” “ Because we could not help
 “ it,” they said: “ He rode away from us.”
 “ D—n you,” he replied, “ why did not
 “ you put him upon the worst Horse?”
 “ Because,” they answered, “ We had no
 “ Suspicion of him.” “ D—n you,” said
 he again, “ you may now go about your Bu-
 “ siness”—Upon which one of them said,
 He hoped his Honour would remember his
 Promise. “ D—n you, for a Couple of
 “ Rascals,” he replied; “ I promised you
 “ Five Guineas if you brought him, but now
 “ I will not give you one Farthing—Who are
 “ the Bail?” Upon which they gave him a
 Paper; which, when he had read, he cry’d,
 “ Worse and worse, ye Scoundrels!” and
 tore it to Pieces—That then a young Lady
 came out to him, for all this was in the Yard,
 and asked him, What was the Matter?
 “ Matter enough,” he answered, “ they had
 “ Reddy, and have let him go again; and
 “ have brought me a Bail-Bond from *Wil-*
 “ *liams*, and the rest of them; who now are,
 “ I suppose laughing at us.” Upon which
 Miss cry’d, “ What will become of me!
 “ What shall I do!”—That he bid her be
 quiet, and go in; and that, for all the Men
 could say to him, he would not give them
 one Halfpenny.

THIS

THIS Account, indeed, made us laugh heartily. It was a cruel Disappointment to a young Lady, in her Condition, to miss of a Husband at so critical a Juncture, when she might justly be said to long for one.—Poor Reddy blessed Providence for all his miraculous Escapes; saying, If other People had not had better Eyes and Judgment than himself, he had been ruined; but, for his Part, he would never go a courting any more: Tho' such Appearances might have deceived any one, of more Knowledge than himself. *Williams* laughed heartily, and told him, his fair Confession should do him no Harm.

MR. *Williams* begun now to think of returning Home, tho' we endeavoured to persuade him to send for his Lady to Town. We were perfectly happy, and imagined we had totally defeated Mr. *Gayton's* Schemes: But we soon found he had still another Game to play, at Mr. *Reddy's* Expence.

C H A P. XII.

Mr. Gayton's new Scheme, and the Success that attended it. Reddy in great Perplexity, and the extreme kind Behaviour of the young Ladies towards him. Fainall's Project to extricate Reddy.

WHILE we thus chearfully were passing our Time in a Sort of indolent Tranquillity, and *Reddy*, from Experience, found he mistook his Talents greatly in Love-Affairs, and

and had banished from his Bosom all Thoughts of his accomplished Miss *Lamour*, his Calm was interrupted, and ours diverted, by the sudden Appearance in our Village of Miss *Sukey*, Mrs. *Williams's* late Maid. She had taken Lodgings in a little House, and expeditiously spread about she was with Child by Mr. *Reddy*; and was come to oblige him to maintain her, and take Care of the Child, when she should be delivered.

PEOPLE mostly interested are generally the last who hear what concerns them; and this Piece of News was in the Mouths of the whole Village, before Mr. *Reddy*, or any at Mrs. *Heartly's*, knew of it. *Williams's* Man brought us the first Intelligence, and made our Ladies very merry. They, as soon as ever *Reddy* came, wished him Joy, and let him know who was come to visit him.

CONSCIOUS of Guilt, he was much confounded, and could find no Excuse for himself. This appeared to him worse than the Bailiffs—"Oh!" cry'd *Reddy*, "when am I to know Peace of Mind! What can I do, or whither can I go? As I hope to be saved I do not think I am the Father!—I must run away!—She will swear any Thing."

THIS set us all a laughing; and indeed he was so mortified, and looked so dismally, it was impossible to forbear. I told him, he was got into a very bad Scrape; and, what was worse, I did not see how he could behave in

in it.—That, to be sure, the Girl's Intention was to expose him, and she was seconded in it, so that any Offer of Money to hush the Affair up, would probably be refused; and even to attempt to make it up, would be acknowledging the Guilt, and, in Fact, owning the Child—"That is true," he cry'd; "they are set upon my Ruin, and this Engine of theirs will accomplish it. I am undone! I deserve to lose my Friends."

CLARINDA and Miss Freeborn offered to be Godmothers. *Williams* told him, To brave it out, and bring her to a Justice, would expose him to the whole Country: Adding, "I cannot persuade you to marry her, her Character is too notorious; and yet that is the only Satisfaction, that the World may think a proper one. *Heartly* said, We must even let the Matter rest here; for nothing can be done to serve Mr. *Reddy*, 'till we know what Miss *Sukey* will do. It is an unhappy Affair; and, had the Consequence been considered, it had possibly been avoided; but it is too late, nor do I see any Probability of serving you. We will send for Mr. *Fainall*, he is more versed in these Sort of Matters than myself, or than these Gentlemen seem to be." Aye," replied *Reddy*, "I should indeed have thought of what might happen, and have kept from Impunity. But I will fetch Mr. *Fainall*; he can advise, may be—Though
" I am

"I am almost ashamed of going along, the
"Folk so stare at me."

WHEN he was gone, Miss *Freeborn* said,
"Indeed I pity him, poor Creature! How
"mortified he is!" *Clarinda* and Miss *Heartly*
desired us to do what we could for him,
saying, "Though we have laughed at him,
"and he is justly served, we are sorry for
"him." I told them, I did not imagine the
Affair would turn out so bad as it appeared;
"But at the worst, to oblige you, Miss,"
turning to *Clarinda*, "I will be his Friend
"in it." She coloured, and seemed greatly
abashed; and I was very sorry for inadvertently directing myself to her, but the coming
of *Fainall* and *Reddy* prevented her being
taken Notice of.

FAINALL was very gay — "Well,
Reddy," said he, "never mind it, we will
"have a merry Christening." *Williams* said,
very gravely, "Mr. *Fainall*, we confess our-
"selves ignorant how to proceed in this
"troublesome Affair; but the good Opinion
"we have of your Judgment in these Kind
"of Things, has occasion'd us to beg your
"Advice. Mr. *Reddy*, you find, is in bad
"Hands. It is indeed a common Case, with
"young Fellows of the Town; but we would
"be glad to have the Matter so adjusted, as
"that the Girl may not complain of Injustice,
"and yet our Friend preserve his Character."

FAINALL answered, "Sir, I do not
"know whether I ought to accept your Com-
"pliment

“ pliment in this Company—It may not be
 “ so proper: But I will readily give you my
 “ Opinion, out of Regard to Mr. *Reddy* and
 “ his Friends.—We have two Things to
 “ consider; whether this Girl is really with
 “ Child, or not: For it is not uncommon
 “ to make great Bellies sometimes. If she
 “ is, Money must stop her Mouth; and she
 “ will require a good deal, as *Gayton*, I make
 “ no Doubt, has offered her a round Sum to
 “ come here in this Manner. But I doubt
 “ her being with Child; because, if she was,
 “ they might have let her have gone and
 “ swore the Child to him, and then a Con-
 “ stable and his Warrant would have given
 “ them full Revenge; therefore we must
 “ wait a little. If she insults *Reddy*, I have
 “ a Friend hard by, a Justice of the Peace,
 “ and an old Sportsman; from him I will
 “ get a Warrant, and carry Miss *Sukey* be-
 “ fore him. He will soon discover the Im-
 “ posture, and then, *Reddy*, you send her to
 “ the House of Correction.”

WE all acquiesced in our learned Council's
 Opinion, and agreed to countenance Mr.
Reddy as much as we could; that the Gentry
 of the Village, judging from our Behaviour
 to him, might not be induced to withdraw
 their Respect. *Reddy*, finding there were
 some Hopes, began to pull up a little. In-
 deed Mrs. *Heartly* was very angry, but, out
 of Complaisance to us, treated him civilly;
 though she could not forbear telling us at
 G
 Supper,

Supper, that, notwithstanding Mr. *Fainall's* joking, she thought *Reddy* ought rather to be sent to the House of Correction, than the "Girl; saying, Whether she is with Child or not, he has behav'd very wickedly."

WE were obliged to acknowledge the Truth, and to assure her the Girl should not, either Way, be hurt; but that what we did was not to encourage Vice, but to defeat Mr. *Gayton's* Schemes, and preserve a Person from certain Ruin—That if Miss *Sukey* was really with Child, and would swear it to him, she should be taken Care of; but if it was not his child, it was but Justice the real Father should maintain it: And if she was not, she should go quietly about her Business.

WHEN we went to Church on the *Sunday*, Miss *Sukey* very neatly dress'd, had fixed herself just before our Pew; and, when Mr. *Reddy* came into it, very demurely made him a low Curtsey, which occasioned him to colour not a little.

WHEN Church was over, Miss *Freeborn* and *Clarinda*, putting him between them, treated him with great Respect; and Mrs. *Heartly* very obligingly, in the Hearing of the Villagers, who were crouded in the Church-Yard, invited him and Mr. *Fainall* to Dinner. We took no Manner of Notice of what happened to Mr. *Reddy*, and, in the Afternoon, went with him to Church in the same complaisant Manner, and found Miss *Sukey* at her Post,

Post, as full of her Compliments as in the Morning.

We conducted him back, as before; but *Fainall* thought the Farce had been played long enough, so, when we came Home, said, "Faith, *Reddy*, she is a pretty Girl; what think you of her for a Wife? She behaves very decently at Church, for one in her Condition—I believe the Girl is penitent."

WE all laughed, and, finding *Fainall* was inclinable to make himself a little innocent Mirth, joined in his Opinion; *Heartly* saying, "I do not know what to think of it, but I believe Marriage would save a great deal of Trouble." Aye," said I, "and how would it mortify Miss *Lamour*, to find *Sukey's* Accomplishments preferred to her own." "For God's Sake," said *Reddy*, "do not afflict the Afflicted—I have had my Punishment—My Crime has been all Day before my Eyes."

WHILE we were in this Humour, a Servant came to Mrs. *Heartly*, and told her, The young Woman who was at Church desired to speak with her. She went accordingly—Poor *Reddy* trembled—The young Ladies tittered—However, *Clarinda* was good-natur'd enough to tell *Reddy* we were only joking with him; that he would certainly find us his Friends, without wishing him married to Miss *Sukey*. "Aye, Miss," he replied, "I believe you; but what Business has she here? How am I become the Jest

“ of every Body !—How happy was I here !
 “ and what a Persecution has my ill Conduct
 “ and gay Company brought upon me !”

WE cheered him, by cordially assuring him, we would befriend him : When Mrs. *Heartly* returned, and begun, by saying, “ a pretty, “ modest, sober, young Woman indeed !— “ What a Story has she told me !—Thank “ God, I have but one Daughter, and she “ is disposed of.” “ Pray, Madam,” said *Williams*, “ let us know what she has told you ?” “ Oh ! Sir,” she answered, “ she has told “ me, what I could not have believed”— “ Dear Mother,” said *Heartly*, “ tell us “ what you have heard : It is possible you “ have heard more than Truth. We know “ what they are capable of doing, and Mrs. “ *Williams* knows the young Lady’s Abili- “ ties.” “ Why, Son,” she replied, “ she “ tells me how Mr. *Reddy* seduced her ; I “ might say Debauched her—That, being “ with Child, she has lost a very good Place “ —That, unhappy as she is, she will go to “ Service, as soon as she is delivered ; but “ now expects to be maintained, and her “ Child provided for. Indeed I think she “ is very reasonable.”

“ DEAR Madam,” said Miss *Freeborn* (for poor *Reddy* was as mute as a Fish) “ think “ a little. I see Miss *Lamour* in every Word “ of this Tale. Our Family had Trouble “ enough with this modest, sober, young “ Woman ; she was ready to dispose of Miss “ *Williams*

“ *Williams* to Mr. *Gayton*. Your Son and
 “ Mr. *A*—— know it ; and, thanks to them,
 “ it was prevented. I am convinced now, it
 “ is one of Miss *Lamour*’s low Contrivances :
 “ But, as these Gentlemen have taken
 “ Mr. *Reddy* under their Protection, I hope
 “ their Judgment will detect these idle
 “ Schemes, and bring Shame to their Au-
 “ thors.” Well said, Miss,” cry’d Mr. *Wil-*
liams ; “ I am obliged to Mr. *Gayton*, for
 “ his good Intentions : But pray, Madam,
 “ do not be led away by Appearances ; you
 “ know how we intend to act.”

CLARINDA said, She was sorry for
 Miss *Lamour*, a young Lady who had a Share
 of Sense, and once of Character : Adding,
 “ I cannot account for this foolish Conduct
 “ of her’s ; can she imagine these Gentle-
 “ men cannot see ?” Madam,” said *Reddy*,
 “ I am, to be sure, guilty of a Fault, but I
 “ am not so bad as I am represented : These,
 “ my good Friends, have once preserved
 “ me ; and let me entreat you not to divert
 “ their present Intentions — I am ruined,
 “ without their Assistance.” “ Well,” Mrs.
Williams reply’d, “ I submit to better Judg-
 “ ment—Take your own Way—tho’ I ask
 “ Pardon for not being so agreeable to those
 “ I ought to love, but I am greatly concern-
 “ ed for the poor Girl.” “ Madam,” said
Fainall, “ you shall be convinced To-mor-
 “ row, we have a Foundation to go upon.
 “ Mr. *Reddy*’s Character now suffers greatly

“ in your Opinion ; how can we tell what
 “ may be the present Opinion of the Vil-
 “ lage, at this Time? We are talking the
 “ Affair over now, and so are they, I make
 “ no Doubt of it—If these Gentlemen will
 “ attend me, I will make an End of it.”
 “ Do,” Miss *Heartly* said, “ and you will
 “ oblige me—I want to see an End of this ;
 “ though, indeed, I am against my Mam-
 “ ma.” “ Come,” said *Heartly*, “ I agree
 “ with my Sister ; we will attend you To-
 “ morrow, at your Time.”

Miss *Freeborn*, through her very good Nature, took an Opportunity to tell me, she expected me to keep my Word ; “ For though,” says she, “ I blame Mr. *Reddy*, pray do not
 “ let them have their Ends.” *Clarinda* hinted to me privately, what a Confusion I had put her into ; though she ought not to have taken Notice of what was applicable to any one in the Company. I assured her, I had no Meaning in what I said to her, tho’ it concerned me to see she took Notice of it.

In the Morning came *Fainall* and *Reddy*, and together we set out, with *Heartly* and *Williams*. *Fainall* had schemed it, and, calling upon his Friend, we were obliged to follow our own Inclinations. *Williams* broke the Affair, and the Justice very agreeably offered his Service ; saying, “ I seldom
 “ meddle, but now and then I have a Plea-
 “ sure, and some Success in detecting Im-
 “ positions, and my Office is free from any
 “ Expence.

“ Expenſe. I had a Clerk once, but, for
 “ the ſake of his own Profit, I was never
 “ quiet; ſo I parted with him, and am now
 “ troubled with only real Buſineſs”—After
 which, without Heſitation, he ſent for a Con-
 ſtable, and gave him full Directions how
 to proceed.

IN about three Hours came Miſs *Sukey* and
 the Conſtable, attended by ſeveral Perſons
 of the Village. The Juſtice treated Mr.
Reddy with great Civility; and, having taken
 his Seat of Office, and we ſitting by him, begun
 —“ Young Woman, I have granted a War-
 “ rant againſt you, for injuring this Gentle-
 “ man in his Character, by ſaying he de-
 “ bauched you, and had got you with Child.
 “ You know, or ought to know, the Nature
 “ of an Oath: If you will ſwear this worthy
 “ Gentleman got the Child, you ſhall have
 “ Juſtice. But conſider the Nature of your
 “ Oath — We have Gentlemen enough to
 “ ſwear his Character is injured, and you
 “ had better tell the Truth. I would not
 “ threaten you with a Houſe of Correction,
 “ but you know my Power — What have
 “ you to ſay, Madam?” “ Sir,” answered
 Miſs *Sukey*, “ that Gentleman, though I
 “ will not ſwear it, I may believe is the Fa-
 “ ther of the Child.” “ I have not yet
 “ ſwore you,” he replied; “ this is only
 “ an Examination, to prevent Trouble:
 “ But I muſt ſwear you, that you are with
 “ Child—That you muſt ſwear, Madam:

“ But even to save that Oath, here is a good
 “ Woman near us, who will satisfy us whe-
 “ ther you are or not—I would not have you
 “ swear, Madam. Take her away, Con-
 “ stable, and send for Mrs. *Motherly*—Let me
 “ know when she comes — You shall have
 “ Justice, Madam.”

IN about two Hours we were informed they were ready, but it was a black Story. Seated as before, in came Mrs. *Motherly*, and Miss *Sukey* all in Tears. “ Well, Madam,” said he, “ are you found with Child? What do you say, Mrs. *Motherly*? I can believe you.” “ Sir,” she answered, “ you see what I have got—I can find no other Child;” holding up a large Pillow, which she had pull’d from under Miss *Sukey*’s Stays. “ So, so,” replied the Justice, “ Madam; let us know your Agents—I told you I did not want to swear you—This is a fine Job indeed! Madam, be pleased to speak, for otherwise I must send you to the House of Correction—No *London Tricks* here.” At last, with many Sighs and Sobs, Miss *Sukey* begun, only desiring his Worship would clear the Room of every one, but Mr. *Reddy*’s Friends; which being accordingly done, she gave us the following Account.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIII.

Miss Sukey's Narration. Mr. Williams returns Home. An odd Contrivance of a Quack-Doctor's, to avoid being laughed at. The Author, Heartly, and Miss Freeborn in strange Confusion.

“ **M**AY it please you, Sir, to know that
 “ I am a very unfortunate Girl ; have-
 “ ing first been so imprudent as to give Ear
 “ to one of my Master's Clerks at *Lisbon*,
 “ by whom I was ruined. After my Master
 “ died, my Mistress brought me over with
 “ her to *England* ; where, at Mr. *Freeborn's*,
 “ I first saw Mr. *Gayton*, and as he was al-
 “ ways finely dress'd, and the Servants
 “ said he was very rich, I suffered myself to
 “ be prevailed upon, for Money and fine
 “ Words, to carry Letters from him to my
 “ young Mistress, and was always praising
 “ him to her. Indeed, I never considered
 “ the Consequence, nor ever asked him whe-
 “ ther he intended to marry her ; and I
 “ often went to his Lodgings with Letters to
 “ him, for she begun to like him hugely.
 “ He always paid me well, and I let him be
 “ very great with me.

“ WHEN his Correspondence was disco-
 “ vered, and I was turned away, I went to
 “ live with Miss *Lamour* ; but before that,
 “ one Day I granted Mr. *Reddy* the same
 “ Favour, I had often granted Mr. *Gayton* :

" For I was fond of being courted, and
 " foolishly thought such Gentlemen would
 " always be my Friends. When I was at
 " Miss *Lamour's*, Mr. *Gayton* had frequent
 " Opportunities of being alone with me;
 " and, though I knew he was great with
 " her, and suspected her to be with Child
 " by him, I never minded it, as I eat and
 " drank of the best, and had Money
 " enough.

" At last I found myself, as I believed,
 " with Child, and told him of it. It was
 " just when they came back, very much
 " out of Humour, upon Account somehow
 " of Mr. *Reddy*. Mr. *Gayton* pressed me
 " greatly to tell him, if Mr. *Reddy* had ever
 " meddled with me: At last, I confessed he
 " had once; upon which he said, *D—n*
 " *me, that will do*, and acquainted Miss *La-*
 " *mour* with it, upon which she seemed
 " greatly pleased.

" INDEED I expected she would have
 " been very angry, and I should have lost
 " my Place; but, instead of that, she treated
 " me more kindly than before, and told me
 " she was with Child herself by *Gayton*, and
 " how she had missed of being married to
 " Mr. *Reddy*: But, said she, *my Mother*
 " *knows it now, and I am to take something*:
 " For, Sir, she whom she calls Aunt is her
 " own Mother.

" At last I was persuaded to come down,
 " and tell every one I was with Child by
 " Mr.

“ Mr. Reddy ; they saying, I could come to
 “ no Harm : That he would be so frighten’d,
 “ he would give me any Thing to be rid
 “ of me ; and possibly might be turned out
 “ of the Company, and lose the Assistance
 “ of his Friends, as the Rascal deserved.
 “ Accordingly, as they were so good to me,
 “ I followed their Directions ; but as I did
 “ not at all show with Child, and, not ima-
 “ gining I should be examined, to make
 “ myself look big, I put that Pillow under
 “ my Cloaths. I hope, Sir, you will for-
 “ give me ; and, indeed, I will never trou-
 “ ble the Gentleman any more.”

“ WELL, Madam,” replied the Justice,
 “ as you have dealt pretty ingenuously in
 “ your Account, I will not punish you ; but
 “ you have been a wicked Agent of wicked
 “ People, and might have ruined Mr. Red-
 “ dy.” “ A very fine Story,” said Heartly,
 “ Miss Lamour’s Aunt her Mother !” “ Yes
 “ indeed, Sir,” answered Miss Sukey ; “ and,
 “ if I was to tell all I know, she is but a
 “ private Bawd.” “ Come, come, we
 “ have been very indulgent to you,”
 said the Justice, “ so out with what you
 “ know.”

“ WHY then, Sir, when I first went to
 “ live there, I took Notice there were two
 “ or three elderly Gentlemen often came to
 “ Supper at our House, but only one at a
 “ Time. I had no Suspicion, for some
 “ Time, what was their Business : But I al-
 “ ways

“ ways observed, if Mr. *Gayton* was there,
 “ my Mistress was not to be at Home; and,
 “ when he was gone, she used to be angry
 “ with Miss for bringing him Home, say-
 “ ing, If you would not be ruled by me,
 “ you might have met him Abroad. You
 “ know if these Gentlemen suspect any
 “ young Fellows come here, they will keep
 “ away. We live now in Character, and
 “ your Fondness for that Rake will one Day
 “ or other cause a Discovery.

“ ONE Day, as Miss and I were very fa-
 “ miliar together, she told me Mr. *Scruple*,
 “ which was the Name of one of the old
 “ Gentlemen, seemed to take great Notice
 “ of me; and *Sukey*, if you will be ruled
 “ by me, you may manage him to some
 “ Advantage, for he is very fond: And
 “ then I was let into the Secret of what Bu-
 “ siness they all came about, and how art-
 “ fully she was obliged to carry herself; say-
 “ ing, I have been five years in this Way
 “ —My Mother is angry at my being ac-
 “ quainted with *Gayton*; but his Humour
 “ agreeing with my own, I thought I would
 “ have one for Pleasure, as she enjoy’d the
 “ Profit of three.”

WE were all surprized at such a Scene of
 Hypocrisy and Iniquity; and having dis-
 missed Miss *Sukey*, in a Manner better than
 she could have expected, we took Leave
 of the honest Justice, and carried Mr. *Reddy*
 Home in great Spirits. They all, at Mrs.
Heartly's,

Heartly's, congratulated him upon his good Fortune: Upon which *Mr. Reddy* exultingly said to *Mrs. Heartly*, "Madam, I hope now " I have recovered your good Opinion." "Sir," she replied, "I am glad of your " good Luck, but that is not to be imputed " to your Desert." "There is a Proverb " to that Purpose," said *Fainall*; "but let " it pass—We have done our Business, and " *Miss Sukey's*, with great Dispatch. These " repeated Disappointments will surely make " them lay better Schemes, or leave them " off entirely."

As *Mr. Williams* would return Home, *Fainall*, *Heartly*, and I accompany'd him to Town, and then as far as *Salisbury*. We acquainted *Mr. Freeborn* with what weighty Affairs we had been engaged in. He was pleased with the Account; but said, "I am " now perfectly acquainted with the Con- " duct and Character of *Miss Lamour*; " though, as she does not come here, I did " not think there was any Occasion to cau- " tion my Daughter to avoid her Company: " But the Aunt being the Mother was a Se- " cret to me 'till now. It was *Mr. Scruple* " who put her Money into my Hands. The " old Debauchee! who has a Daughter he " scarce allows a decent Dress to go Abroad " in." *Mrs. Williams* recommended to her Nephew, to put every Thing in Order for her, and then she and her Daughter would come down.

IN our Journey, in a small Town, about Five in the Evening, we saw a Quack-Doctor's Stage, and his Zani entertaining the Crowd 'till he made his Appearance. It being just opposite to a good Inn, and we being in no Haste, it was agreed to rest there; and, getting a front Room, we expected the Doctor. At last he mounted, much betinselled; and, in a learned, unintelligible Speech, let his Audience understand, that he was infallible, and his Remedies cured every Disease.

He was not very happy in pronouncing the hard Words, with which he had larded his long Harangue, which occasioned a good deal of Laughter among us. This he observing, and fearful of his Profit being lessened, if every one did not approve him as much as his gaping Auditory, very drolly said, "I see a Gentleman there, who was a Patient of mine in *Suffex*—I must speak to him—Pray, good People, excuse me; I will return immediately." Upon which, with a modest Assurance, he came up to us.

WE received him with Civility, though we wondered what his Errand was; but, placing himself in Sight of his good People, he very familiarly told us "Gentlemen, ob-
 "serving you to laugh at the hard Expressi-
 "ons I made use of to catch those Folk by
 "the Ears, I was afraid you would make
 "yourselves merry at my Expence: I there-
 "fore thought it my best Way to wait
 "upon

“ upon you, and beg of you to let me go on ;
 “ as, I assure you, I have nothing to sell
 “ which can do any Harm.”

HIS Request was reasonable enough, and we promised him we would contain ourselves, if he would come and sup with us : To which he readily agreed, and, mounting his Stage again, proceeded to pick up the Pence.

HE acknowledged, at Supper, he understood nothing but *English*, and imagined he abused his hard Words ; but, said he, “ If
 “ I did not use them, right or wrong, I
 “ should be Nobody ; though I have made
 “ a good Evening of it. My Salves and
 “ Phylick are good and safe ; and, if the
 “ People have but Faith, I do good some-
 “ times, at the worst I do no Harm.”

WHEN we returned from our Journey, the Preparations went on for the Weddings, though *Heartly* altered his Mind as to the Time of his Sister's ; thinking it best hers should be over first, as Mr. *Fainall*'s House was so near her Mother's, and indeed *Fainall* had hinted as much.

MR. *Freeborn* ordered every Thing, as he had insisted upon, and we had a very gay Country-Wedding ; *Clarinda* and Miss *Freeborn* sparing no Expence, to honour the Bride, and *Reddy* was at the Ceremony.

THIS being over, Mr. *Freeborn* declared his settled Resolution to retire from Business, and one Day told me he had sent for Mr.

Trusty

Trufty and my Brother over; saying, "I have a very good Account of your Brother, and make no Doubt but he will make a great Merchant; but, when I quit Business, it is proper I should have a Place to go to, and as my Daughter is to live in the West, if you will accompany me, I will go and look out for a little House near her; then I can go and come, as I please. *Heartly* would have me be with him, but I think I shall be best by myself."

WHEN we went we saw several Houses, but at last he pitched upon a small Box; and setting Workmen to make some Alterations, we returned. "Well, Mrs. *Heartly*," said he, "I am the Master of an House now myself, young People are best by themselves. My Chariot can bring us both to see you, and we are both interested in your Happiness." *Heartly* left it to his Mother, and she agreed with Mr. *Freeborn*.

I now thought myself perfectly happy; about to pass the Remainder of my Life with an agreeable Woman, among my Friends, and affluent in my Circumstances. I hinted all this to *Clarinda*, and she seemed pleased with the agreeable Prospect; and behaved with a Tenderness to me, as convinced me I should have her Heart with her Person. In short, we were all satisfied, and a perfect Tranquillity reigned among us.

I HAD

I HAD only my Brother to do something for ; and, as I had taken him under my Protection, it was a Duty incumbent upon me to do it. I had One Thousand Five Hundred Pounds lay dead, and I acquainted Mr. *Freeborn* and *Heartly* with my Intentions to give him that, to put into Trade. They approved of my Design, and I luckily drew it out of the Person's Hands a few Days before he broke.

CLARINDA and Miss *Freeborn* were in Town, busy in preparing themselves ; when one Day I happen'd to meet Miss *Suke*, very gravely dress'd. I accosted her, and enquired how she was received, upon her Return ? She told me, The House was all up in an Uproar ; that *Gayton* stormed and swore like a Madman ; and that Miss *Lamour* used her very coldly : " So," said she, " I catch-
" ed at an Offer made me by Mr. *Scruple*,
" to live with him ; and I act now as Up-
" per-Servant in his Family, without any
" Suspicion of what I was, or am obliged
" to be.

" It is neither Miss *Lamour*'s Interest, nor
" mine," continued she, " to talk of each
" other ; so, if I have robbed her of Mr.
" *Scruple*, I have left her Mr. *Gayton* : For,
" I assure you, I will not let my old Gentle-
" man make any Evening Visits, upon any
" Account."

I TOLD her, I had been informed Mr. *Scruple* had a Daughter, whom he used very indifferently.

indifferently. "He did," she answered, "but since I have been at his House, she goes more Abroad, and better dressed than she used; and, as she has had a good Offer, I have persuaded her Father to open his Purse, and he has agreed to marry her off—I do not love to have too many Eyes upon me."

"But what is to become of the Young One, Madam?" I asked. "Oh!" she replied, "if Mr. *Scruple* will not take Care of it, I have secured a Thousand Pounds Settlement, and I will leave him, for I dare not own it to be *Gayton's*. But now I mention him, he vows Revenge upon you: But I am not to intimate now, to tell you in what Manner he proposes to execute it—only I would have you be upon your Guard."

I THANKED her for her Caution, and we parted: But as I could no way see it was in *Gayton's* Power to do me any Injury, I thought it only one of his vapouring Threats, and banished all Apprehension of him.

Miss *Freeborn* and I lived as People who were to be intimate—I regarded her, as the Wife of a Man for whom I had a singular Esteem; and she regarded me, as her Husband's particular Friend; so that all Ceremony was laid aside between us. *Gayton* went to pay his Friend *Fainall* a Visit, and, though his Reception was not over warm, as *Fainall* was settled into a regular, sober Life, he

he stay'd there some Days; in which Time Miss *Freeborn* and I went down, to accompany Mrs. *Heartly* to town.

As she, and I, and *Clarinda* were going one Afternoon to *Fainall's*, *Clarinda* said something very obliging, upon which I told her it deserv'd a Kiss, and jokingly gave her one. She said, I ought not to be particular, upon which I kissed Miss *Freeborn*.

In two or three Days we came all to Town, and I thought *Heartly* looked somehow cool; however, not being conscious of having given him any Reason, I took no Notice of it. The next Afternoon I met Miss *Freeborn* just by Miss *Lamour's*, and she told me she had promised to call there. I told her, I was a little engaged, but I would call upon her and see her Home, if she would stay 'till I came.

WHEN I called, I was a good deal surprized, to find Miss seemingly disordered. I asked her, If any Thing ailed her? and she could scarce answer me. There was only Miss *Lamour* with her; and I enquired of her, If Miss *Freeborn* was not well? She answered, She was well enough, she believed; for she had only drank a small Glass of a Cordial, when she came in first.

I WAS at a Loss what to do; and, very unluckily, took the worst Method I could. I had a Coach called and carried her to my Lodging, where my Landlady got some warm Water for her; and, in about an
Hour,

Hour, she came entirely to herself. She was greatly confused, and wondered how she came there: Upon which I told her how I found her, and what had been done for her.

At last she recollected, that *Gayton* was with Miss *Lamour*, when she went; and that he was dressed very gay, and offered to kiss her several Times, after she had drank the small Glass of Liquor, and which she did not drink 'till after much Persuasion—That she refused him, and would have come Home, but she found she could not stir. I imagined they had some bad Design; and, after Miss was gone Home, I put on my Sword, with a fixed Resolution to make Mr. *Gayton* tell the Truth.

When I came to Miss *Lamour's*, he was not there; but was told, Mr. *Heartly* had been to look for Miss *Freeborn*. I was pretty warm, but *Lamour*, in her giddy Way, only laughed at me. When I came Home, I found *Heartly* had been there too; but, thinking it too late to go out, I went to my own Room, a good deal perplexed at the Occurrences of the Day, and greatly undetermined in my Opinion.

C H A P.

CHAP. XIV.

Heartly and the Author fight. The Marriages put off. Clarinda's Flight. Mr. Freeborn's Family in the utmost Distress. The Author in a very melancholy Situation. Reddy visits him—And many other Occurrences.

JUST before I went to Bed, my Landlord brought me up a Note; which I found, upon opening, was from *Heartly*, and contain'd as follows:

“SIR,
“**A**S I have endeavoured to square my
“Conduct by the strict Rules of Ho-
“nour, I look upon every one as a Villain,
“who, under the specious Pretence of
“Friendship, imposes upon me. You are
“sensible how much you have injured me,
“in the most tender Point. I expect you
“to be ready when I call upon you in the
“Morning. Life now is a Burthen to me
“—One of us must fall.

“*HEARTLY.*”

THE more I read this Epistle, the more I was at a Loss to account for it—It was a strange one to me. The Purport was plain enough, but what gave Occasion for it I could not imagine. I guessed indeed at the Contrivers of the Mischief, but how *Heartly* could be imposed upon was a Mystery to me:

me: However, I threw it upon the Table, went to Bed, and slept very sound.

ABOUT Seven I was waked, by his knocking at the Door, and demanding if I was ready: Upon which I got up, and, half dressed, opened the Door; and would have expostulated with him, but that was preaching to the Wind. He was as mad, for the Time, as any in *Bedlam*. Villain was the best Word I could get from him; and thinking to bear more would be imputed Cowardice, I went with him.

IN the Coach I would have willingly been informed of what gave Occasion to this sudden Start of his Temper, but to no Purpose. When we came to draw, I found I had to deal with a Man who was determin'd to destroy me: However, I was so fortunate as to wound him in the Sword-Arm, and disarm him; but not without receiving a slanting Wound upon my Ribs, which was well meant. He went to the Coach, and I got a Chair—When I came Home and had got a Surgeon, I had a Letter brought me from *Clarinda*, and one enclosed from Miss *Freeborn*.

“ S I R,

“ I Confess I am twice made unhappy, by
 “ your Inconstancy. Could you see the
 “ Confusion you have occasion'd in poor Mr.
 “ *Freeborn's* Family, you would shed Tears
 “ of Blood: All the Pleasure he had flatter'd
 “ himself

“ himself to enjoy in his decline of Life, is,
 “ through YOUR Means, frustrated!—Mrs.
 “ *Heartly* is almost distracted—*Heartly* is in
 “ an high Fever, and raving upon the
 “ W—e, as he terms Miss *Freeborn*—Mr.
 “ *Freeborn* is dejected to the last Degree, has
 “ forbid his Daughter his Sight, and ordered
 “ her to be closely watched—I feel for my-
 “ self, and my Friends— Could you injure
 “ no one, but your intimate Friend?—The
 “ Resolution I have taken, I have, before
 “ this reaches you, put in Execution—I am
 “ gone, and never intend to let you see me
 “ more. You are wounded, we hear; had
 “ you been so, in an honourable Cause, with
 “ what Care could I have attended you!

“ *Adieu!*

“ *For ever Adieu!*

CLARINDA.”

“ P. S. At Miss *Freeborn*’s Desire, I have
 “ enclosed a Letter from her. Her Grief is
 “ so violent, I almost could pity her. Once
 “ more—*Adieu!*

Miss *Freeborn*’s was to the following Purport:

“ SIR,
 “ **W**HAT has happen’d, or by whom
 “ occasion’d, I am at a Loss to guess,
 “ but I am in a very unhappy Situation.
 “ My Father shuns me, and will not hear
 “ me—Poor *Heartly* is, I am afraid, dying;
 “ and

“ and what is worse upon my Account, and
 “ with a confirmed Belief of my being a lewd
 “ Person. My God! what did I ever do
 “ that could give the most malicious Person
 “ room to tax me with any Levity!—I am
 “ sorry for your Wound; for *Heartly*, before
 “ his Fever came on, said you was wounded,
 “ and owned you behaved well to him. His
 “ Distemper is in his Mind, for his Wound
 “ is no Way dangerous, the Surgeon says—
 “ Somebody has occasioned the shedding of
 “ Blood between two good Friends—Had
 “ *Heartly* been a little cooler, we might have
 “ known all, and the Authors have met with
 “ their Reward: Yet, I hope, we all may
 “ meet in Peace. I am sure, when *Heartly*
 “ comes enough to himself to hear Reason,
 “ he will be heartily sorry, upon your Ac-
 “ count—Let me beg you to forgive him;
 “ and forgive me, who am the innocent
 “ Cause of Miss *Steddy*’s Resentment to you.
 “ She is going—She will not hear me—and
 “ vows never to see you more. I know
 “ no Possibility of hearing from you, so
 “ must resign myself to Providence—My
 “ Papa claims all our Tears; and, could I
 “ speak to him, I might help to clear up this
 “ sad Story—Mrs. *Williams* is very good to
 “ me, and I will try to persuade her to
 “ come to you.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most humble Servant,

“ ANN FREEBORN.”

THESE

THESE Letters greatly concerned me; and, had I been any Way guilty of any Part charged to me, had occasion'd me a Fever, as well as *Heartly*—Him I pity'd, and Mr. *Freeborn* much — *Clarinda's* hasty Departure vexed me: I thought she owed more to me, than to believe any Thing to my Prejudice unheard. Poor Miss was really the Occasion of almost all my Sorrow. She suffered innocently in her Character — was the Jest of them who caused her to suffer—was debarred the Sight of her Father — Suffered in the Opinion of him she loved; and who plainly, even by his Rashness, showed he loved her—What an infernal Scheme is this! — How happy were we Yesterday! — How wretched to Day! and, if he dies, how unhappily shall I drag a weary Life along — What a distracted miserable Family! — Poor Mrs. *Heartly*!

THUS I perplexed myself, and imaged to my Mind the most dismal Prospect sure of unexpected Distress, that could be formed by melancholy Ideas. My Wound was troublesome, and, though not dangerous, obliged me to Confinement: However, I thought it incumbent upon me to write to Mr. *Freeborn*, and did the following Letter:

SIR,

“ I Grieve not upon any Account, but my
 “ dear Friend *Heartly* and yours, and
 H “ the

" the Treatment Miss undeservedly meets
 " with. I am an utter Stranger to any Thing
 " that occasion'd Mr. *Heartly* to challenge
 " me—He would not tell me; and, through
 " Self-Preservation, I was obliged to take
 " Care of my own Life. Miss *Steddy's* Re-
 " sentment makes me angry—She ought to
 " have stay'd and heard the Truth, when it
 " can be got at, before she took such a Step.
 " Could I be so happy as to see any one
 " from your Family, you shall know all the
 " Transactions of the Day, before this me-
 " lancholy Affair: Only believe me igno-
 " rant, and incapable of intending Mr.
 " *Heartly* any Injury, and I shall be satisfied.
 " Let me intreat you to let your Daughter
 " speak to you — Some great Villainy has
 " been used, to abuse us all—Pray commend
 " me to Mrs. *Heartly*; and assure her, her
 " Son is not more dear to her than to me.

" I am,

" Sir,

" Your most humble Servant,

" T. A."

Two or three Days after this Letter Mrs.
Williams came, by Mr. *Freeborn's* Desire, to
 see me. She seemed much dejected; telling
 me, They had very little Hopes of *Heartly's*
 Recovery. I asked her how Miss did? She
 answered, " Her Papa has seen her, and
 " heard her Story; and, indeed, my pre-
 " sent Business is to hear yours—We are in
 " a terrible

“ a terrible Confusion !—What good Offices
 “ I have been able to do, I have, for the
 “ Regard my Nephew has for you ; nor can
 “ I harbour a Thought to Miss *Freeborn’s*
 “ Prejudice.”

I THEN told her, how I found Miss, and
 what Care I took of her, as not judging it
 proper she should come Home in the Manner
 she was. “ So,” she replied, “ she says. You
 “ agree Word for Word ; I am glad of it.”
 “ Madam,” said I, “ my Landlady will con-
 “ firm it all ; she was never out of the Room,
 “ while Miss was here—But I should be glad
 “ of any Information how this Quarrel hap-
 “ pened.” “ Indeed,” she said, “ I know
 “ very little—*Heartly* came Home soon after
 “ Miss, in a very ill Humour. He walked up
 “ and down the Room, often saying, *Some-*
 “ *body shall bleed for this—One of us will fall.*
 “ Mr. *Freeborn* was not at Home, and Miss
 “ often asked him what ailed him ? or who
 “ had affronted him ? To which he only
 “ answered, *Oh, Sorcerers ! Oh, Sorcerers !—*
 “ *You know nothing of the Matter, I dare say—*
 “ and, calling for Pen and Ink, sent you the
 “ Note ; as we learned afterwards from him-
 “ self, when he came Home wounded.

“ WHEN he had sent the Note,” continu-
 “ ed Mrs. *Williams*, “ he went up Stairs, and
 “ Miss cry’d heartily ; saying, She had never
 “ seen him out of Humour before. In the
 “ Morning he went out early, and she came,
 “ greatly frightened, into my Room : saying,

“ She was sure some Mischief was going
 “ forward. When he came Home, all bloody,
 “ we were all in Confusion, and Miss was
 “ very tender in her Behaviour to him; but
 “ when his Fever came on, he fell a raving,
 “ *Out, you W—e! out of my Sight!* and told
 “ an incoherent Story; which so disturbed
 “ Mr. *Freeborn*, that, out of Regard to Mr.
 “ *Heartly*, he forbid her his Sight: But I
 “ hope all Things will be brought about
 “ again, as he has seen her, upon receive-
 “ ing your Letter. He told me this Morn-
 “ ing, he could not think you would do
 “ Mr. *Heartly* any Wrong — There must
 “ be some Mistake. Miss desires her Com-
 “ pliments to you, and wishes she was at
 “ Liberty to pay you a Visit. I will tell her
 “ how you are; and, I dare say we shall
 “ all meet again—I cannot stay now, for
 “ all our Attendance is necessary.” Poor
Heartly! I thought, how has your gene-
 rous Temper been abused!—And yet for
 one of your Sense to be so credulous, as to
 hazard your Life, without lending an Ear to
 Reason. Live! dear *Heartly!* live! and join
 with me to revenge our mutual Injury.—
 However, in the Midst of all my Concern
 for others, it behoved me to have some Re-
 gard to myself. If *Heartly* should die, I was
 liable to be put to great Expence and Trou-
 ble; so I begun to think it would be a Point
 of Prudence to retire somewhere, and wait
 the Event.

THIS

THIS Resolution I fixed, and, while I was preparing to put it in Execution, Mr. *Free-born* waited upon me. He expressed himself greatly concerned at what had happened, and told me he had been at Miss *Lamour's*: That he had been pretty rough with them, but they would own no more than that his Daughter had drank a Cordial there, and I fetched her away: That they perceived her no Way disordered, and they could not account for what happened after: "Thus," said he, "I have had my Labour for my Pains. As to poor *Heartly*, he is past all Hopes; and my Daughter is almost as bad, through the Reflections he casts upon her in his raving Fits, and the Danger he is in—My Hopes, all my Notions of leading an happy, retir'd Life are blasted, and I shall now only carry Sorrow with me to the Grave! You too suffer in your Love, and, I dare say, for your Friend; and I am teized continually to have you secured—But I cannot think of that: And all this Time we are in the Dark, as to the wicked Authors of this hellish Scheme, which has too fatally occasioned all this Mischief."

I GRIEVED to see the good Man thus cast down; and told him, If *Heartly* died, Miss must suffer in the Opinion of the World, without any Redress; and if he lived, unless he could be convinced of her innocence, her Character would fare no better: The Cry

was up, and the Mouths of the Ill-natured, the Envious, and Malicious, were open — That I hop'd he entertained no Thoughts to his Daughter's Prejudice ; as to preserve his Esteem was now the only Comfort she could have.

HE answered, “ Indeed I do not ; I was “ startled at first, but I am now satisfied “ poor *Hearthly* has been imposed upon.” I replied, “ Whoever has been so artful as “ to get him to listen to their Insinuations, “ at once carried their Point, for it was no “ difficult Matter to persuade him to any “ Thing he gave Ear to. He swallowed the “ Poison, without regarding the Poisoner : “ Yet if he liv'd, and the Truth ever came “ out, it was better he had vented his Passion, “ than have brooded over it. Had he conceal'd it, he would have nourished perpetual Matter in his Breast for Diffension ; “ whereas now, if this Storm happily blew “ over, he would be ashamed of ever giving “ Way to such mean Notions. He is now,” I added, “ insensible of what he feels ; but “ I know him so well that, when he is convinced of my Integrity, and how scandalously he used your Daughter, you will see “ then he will indeed claim your Pity.” Mr. *Freeborn* agreed with me, but much feared his Recovery ; and, wishing me perfectly well, took his Leave.

THE next Day having put my Things in Order, I was going, agreeable to my Intention,

tion, when Miss *Freeborn* came up. I was surprized to see her, though not at finding how much she was altered, and expressed myself so. "Indeed," she said, "as you have suffered upon my Account, I thought I ought to come and see you, and have my Papa's leave for so doing."

I TOLD her, She came in Time, for I was just going: "Going whither?" she asked; upon which I informed her. "For God's sake, do not," she said. "If you regard yourself, or *Heartly*, or me, lay aside that Resolution, and stay. If you go, every one will conclude us guilty, and *Heartly* will be confirmed in his suspicions: Nay, my Papa will imagine it is concerted between us."

I CONFESS she reasoned right, so I promised her I would so far oblige her. She then said, *Heartly* was somewhat better, and the Doctors thought the Height of his Fever over. That pleas'd me very much; not that I had any thing to apprehend from his Death, more than Trouble and Expence, but his Life was of the utmost Consequence to us all. It was necessary he should be undeceiv'd, and I made no Doubt but a little Time would do that.

Miss asked me after Miss *Steddy*, upon which I shewed her the Letter she sent me, and expressed a good deal of Resentment at her Usage; saying, "I have taken Pains enough after her already, but I will never give

“ myself any farther Trouble about her.
 “ She is her own Mistress, and at full Li-
 “ berty to do as she pleases.” “ Come,
 “ come,” she answered, “ make no rash
 “ Resolutions: For let *Heartly* be ever so
 “ soon convinced of my Innocence, ’till she is
 “ convinced of yours, I will never give Ear
 “ to any Sollicitations he shall again pre-
 “ sume to offer. If his Happiness, as he
 “ has often told me, depends upon me, I
 “ will believe him when Miss *Seddy* is found
 “ and brought to you; for, I am sure, her
 “ Happiness depends as much upon you.
 “ I know wherever she is, she has little
 “ Enjoyment of herself—She suffers enough
 “ —But I flatter myself we shall all be happy
 “ yet, nevertheless I am determined to
 “ punish *Heartly*. — Now I must go again,
 “ and oblige the People with another Sight
 “ of me, for I was finely stared at coming
 “ along—I believe some Folk will be discon-
 “ certed, at finding I have my Liberty again
 “ and come to visit you, which is what I
 “ never did before.”

I HAD now nothing to do but to unpack
 again, and stay in Town—when I was fa-
 voured with a Visit from Mr. *Reddy*. He
 was sorry at what had happened; but was
 sure, he said, the Mischief sprung from the
 same Quarter as had given him so much
 Trouble—and that *Gayton* and Miss *Lamour*
 had quarrell’d—“ Quarrell’d!” I answer’d;
 “ are you sure of it?” “ Yes, indeed,”
 he

he replied, " I am ; for I called at the Coffee-house to hear the Talk, and in came *Gayton*, and, seeing me, he came up to me ; saying, So, *Reddy*, is your Stomach come to ? You are come after that accomplished B—— again, I suppose. I answered him, I was not ; I had heard of an unhappy Affair between my Friends, and my Business in Town was to enquire after their Healths. Oh ! he replied, they are out of Danger—— they tilted it a little, but there is no great Harm done : Upon which a Gentleman, who sat next me, said, It is pity there should. I have heard great Characters of them both ; and most People now begin to think Mr. *Heartly* in Fault, but impute it to some malicious Story, insinuated to him by some ill-designing Persons. To which *Gayton* hastily answered, I cannot see any ill Design any one could have in telling *Heartly*, his good Friend kissed his intended Wife. I should have called such Information an Act of Friendship : But I do not know whether it is so or no—I was told so, the other Day, by a young Lady of this Gentleman's Acquaintance—Your old Sweetheart, speaking to me, was my Author—But we are off now."

" *REDDY*," said I, " your coming is very lucky—You have said you are much obliged to me and my Friends—It is absolutely necessary this mysterious Affair

“ should be cleared up, and you must assist
 “ in helping to make the Discovery.” He readily and heartily promised his utmost Assistance; upon which I told him, it was proper he should go to Mr. *Freeborn's*, and take an Opportunity to desire Miss to come to me, but not to take any Notice of having seen *Gayton*.

ACCORDINGLY he went, and made an Enquiry after *Heartly's* Health; and brought me Word he mended much, and Miss would certainly come when her Papa returned from the *Exchange*. “ She asked me,” said *Reddy*, “ if I knew what you wanted; and I told her, I believed you had something to tell her about the unhappy Affair.”

JUST as we were set down to Dinner she came, and I informed her of what *Reddy* had heard; and that I hoped through his Means, to bring all to Light. “ Oh!” she answered, “ this will be good News to my Papa!—I am sure he would give a Thousand Pounds to be fully satisfied.” She then told me, *Heartly* was come to his Senses, and had enquired how I did; and her Papa thought proper to tell him I was dangerously hurt, and very uneasy to know what gave Rise to the Challenge: Upon which *Heartly* said, “ Does he not know! Nor your Daughter know! Where is Miss!” To which my Papa replied, “ My Daughter is very ill, through your bad Treatment of her, and she declares she cannot tell why you
 “ fought.”

“ fought.” — Oh, God !” “ said *Heartly*,
 “ how I am tortured !— It is a Combination
 “ against me—Have I not my Senses ! When
 “ my Papa persuaded him to compose him-
 “ self : That he knew his Suspicions, and,
 “ if they were true, he would disown me :
 “ But added, Mr. *Heartly*, think coolly ; get
 “ yourself a little better, and I believe, upon
 “ my Word, you will find yourself villain-
 “ ously imposed upon, and that you have
 “ greatly injured your Friend and my
 “ Daughter—Her Character is the Scoff of
 “ the Town. Oh, my God ! cried *Heartly*
 “ again, give me Ease !—I will compose my-
 “ self—I am afraid I have been too hasty, you
 “ are so calm.

“ My Papa has ordered me not to go
 “ near Mr. *Heartly*, ’till I have his Orders ;
 “ and desired Mrs. *Heartly* and Mrs. *Wil-*
 “ *liams* to tell him the same he did me ;
 “ that, by not indulging him, he may be
 “ induced to tell who was at the Pains to
 “ make him jealous. But I find you have
 “ got the Advantage of us ; and as you saved
 “ me from exposing myself, when I had a
 “ foolish Freak in my Head, you are taking
 “ Methods to reduce your Friend to his Rea-
 “ son again. I am sure my Papa will see
 “ you To-morrow—The News I shall carry
 “ him will bring him, and he will readily
 “ agree in whatever Method of Cure you
 “ lay down. We shall all be obliged to you,
 “ and I wish you Success.”

WHEN

WHEN she was gone, I gave Mr. Reddy his Instructions, how to proceed at Miss Lamour's; only cautioning him, to take Care of her Art, and not to let his Passion prevail over his Prudence, either by again renewing his Courtship, or by suffering her to discover he was set on by me. "Let me alone," he replied, "I have done with my Love, and "I shall now pursue my Interest; and I am "sure I shall find my Account more in "obliging you, than her." "Well then," I said, "all depends upon your Discretion "—Remember, I trust all to your Prudence "and Management."

C H A P. XV.

Mr. Reddy's Success. Miss Lamour visits the Author, &c. Her Discovery. Gives the Author a Letter, which she had just received from Gayton, and promises to reveal other Secrets of great Importance.

I HAD now Leisure to reflect on the imprudent Resolution I had taken, of withdrawing myself from Town, and how happily I was diverted from it by Miss Freeborn's Visit. Had I been gone, there would have been no Chance of detecting this Villainy, and now we were upon a good Scent. I pleased myself with the flattering Hopes of restoring Peace to a good Family, Tranquillity to my Friend, Character to Miss Freeborn, and confirming the good Opinion of myself,

myself, I had made my Study to deserve. How pleasing a Prospect, from the Reverse! These Ideas Sleep drove from my Mind; but they presented themselves again, and diverted my Morning, 'till, as Miss had guessed, her Papa came.

I ENQUIRED after *Heartly*, and was told, he was much better, but very melancholy. "He asks much to see my Daughter," Mr. *Freeborn* said; "but I do not yet think it proper—I want to be Master of the Scheme first—He seems too very sorry for you, as he believes you very bad. I am glad to find my Daughter wants to see him, for indeed I should have been sorry to have seen her carry her Resentment far, as *Heartly* is the only Man I wish to be my Son-in-Law." I answered, "My Agent is not yet returned; but, if you will come and favour me with your Company at Dinner, you then may have some farther Information." "I will," he said; "but I must go upon 'Change."

AT Three o'Clock he returned, and, very obligingly, brought Miss with him, and just after came *Reddy*. I saw he was full of News, and desired him to be free, as we were all interested in his Account: Upon which he said, "When I went to Miss *Lamour's*, I was at first received very coolly; but, upon telling her I was sorry to hear Mr. *Gayton* and she had quarrelled—Pray, said she, who gave you your Intelligence?"

"Mr.

“ Mr. *Gayton*, I answered, told me at the
 “ Coffee-House. Mr. *Gayton* is a Villain,
 “ she replied; and, when you see him
 “ again, pray tell him so: And let him know
 “ it is in my Power, he well knows, to
 “ prove him a Villain—What! dares he
 “ talk of me in a Coffee-House! Pray what
 “ might the gay Gentleman say? Upon
 “ which I told her what he said, without
 “ mincing it; B—, accomplished B—. A
 “ Villain! said she, did he dare call me B—?
 “ But I will expose him: I will go to Mr.
 “ A— or Mr. *Freeborn*, and expose the Vil-
 “ lain—I am finely used indeed, for being
 “ his Fool! I could tear my Eyes out—But
 “ I will be revenged, that I will. When
 “ she took Pen and Ink, and, after writing
 “ this Note, desired me to give it to you.”
 “ Well, Mr. *Reddy*,” said I, “ that there is
 “ a Secret to be discovered, I do not doubt;
 “ let me see what this may tell,” and then
 I read it aloud.

“ SIR,
 “ I AM really ashamed of my ill Conduct;
 “ and, if you will promise me no Harm
 “ shall come to me, I will wait on you, and
 “ let you know such a Scene of Villainy,
 “ that, when known, will set all to rights
 “ in Mr. *Freeborn*’s injured Family.

“ I am, Sir,
 “ Your humble Servant,
 “ CATHERINE LAMOUR.”

“ So

“ So then,” said I, “ we must wait a little longer; but I will answer the Lady’s Biller, according to her Desire, and beg Mr. Reddy after Dinner to endeavour to bring her here.” Accordingly I wrote her the following Letter :

“ MADAM,
“ **M**R. Freeborn’s Family is extremely injured, and it will be doing a great Piece of Justice to set Matters to rights, if it is in your Power. Favour me with your Company, and you may depend upon my Honour and Secrecy, and that no Harm shall come to you. You must deal ingenuously, for that will be expected.

“ I am, Madam,

“ Your humble Servant,

“ T. A.”

It was not long before she came; but, when she saw Mr. Freeborn and his Daughter, she was ready to sink. “ Come, Miss,” said I, “ do not be frightened; as I received your Note in the Presence of this Company, and they are so much interested in what you have to discover, I hope you will give them that Satisfaction, and not let us remain any longer in Suspence.” Upon which, recovering herself, she said—
“ After the many Disappointments Gayton met with, in his Designs upon Mr. Reddy, he vowed Revenge upon Mr. A—; swear—
“ ing

“ ing he would stick at nothing to compass
 “ his Ends, for he was sure it was he who
 “ crossed him in every Thing: And, when
 “ he came from Mr. *Fainall*’s, he was in
 “ great Spirits, saying, He had seen some-
 “ thing that should set *Heartly* in a Flame.
 “ I asked him what it was? for my Revenge
 “ was sweet as his. Then he told me, That
 “ he had seen Mr. *A*— kiss Miss *Freeborn*;
 “ and I will get a Friend of mine to write
 “ a Letter to *Heartly* in such ambiguous
 “ Terms, that I make no Doubt of its Suc-
 “ cess. This he had done, and, a Day or
 “ two after, told me he had seen *Heartly*,
 “ and he was sure he was sulky. He then
 “ proposed another Thing to me, and swore
 “ so solemnly, that if I would assist him in
 “ the Execution of it, he would immediate-
 “ ly marry me; upon which Promise, I
 “ agreed to do whatever he would: Which
 “ was, that I should contrive some Way to
 “ get Miss *Freeborn* to my Aunt’s, and then
 “ I should persuade her to drink a Glass of
 “ what he would bring me; which would so
 “ stupify her, that when he had had his
 “ Ends upon her, she would not be able to
 “ remember any Thing of the Matter, and
 “ it would be no hard Matter, in the Hu-
 “ mour *Heartly* was in, to set Mr. *A*—
 “ and him a tilting, and they might kill
 “ one another and be d—n’d.”

“ WHAT an iniquitous Scheme do I
 “ hear!” said Mr. *Freeborn*: “ But pray,
 “ Miss,

“ Miss, proceed.” “ Indeed, Sir,” said she,
 “ I was startled at the Proposal; but, upon
 “ his reiterated Oaths to marry me, I went
 “ on; and, having got a Promise from your
 “ Daughter that she would just call the next
 “ Time she came out, I told *Gayton*; upon
 “ which he brought me a Bottle, and bid
 “ me do as I was directed. But indeed, be-
 “ ing fearful of the Consequences, I threw
 “ half of it away, and filled the Bottle up
 “ with Wine. *Gayton* kept much at our
 “ House, expecting Miss; and when she
 “ came, and said she had liked to have
 “ brought Company with her, for she had
 “ just met Mr. A——, but he was gone
 “ about some Business and would call upon
 “ her presently, *Gayton* whispered me, It was
 “ better and better; now he should have
 “ his full Revenge.

“ AFTER much Persuasion,” continued
 Miss *Lamour*, “ Miss *Freeborn* drank about
 “ half a Glass, and soon after *Gayton* began
 “ to be very familiar with her; but she
 “ treated him very roughly, and was not so
 “ much stupified as he imagined she would
 “ have been: However, not chusing Mr.
 “ A—— should find her even as she was,
 “ and he with her, he went away; and had
 “ not been long gone, before indeed Mr.
 “ A—— came. He seemed greatly con-
 “ cerned to see Miss so, and took her with
 “ him. Mr. *Hearthly*, in about an Hour af-
 “ ter, came and asked for Miss; and *Gay-*

“ *ton*

“ *ton*, being returned, told him, Mr. *A*—
 “ and she had been a long while gone, in
 “ very good Humour, together; that Miss
 “ had waited above two Hours for him, and
 “ then immediately went with him. Mr.
 “ *Heartly* seemed fretted—muttering some-
 “ thing to himself, but would not stay.
 “ *Gayton* laughed heartily; and cry’d out,
 “ It works—it will do—I know them both
 “ —They will soon be at it, and we shall
 “ have all the Diversion to ourselves:
 “ Though d—n her, I am sorry she had not
 “ Reason to remember her Visit, for pre-
 “ ferring that grave Fool before me—And
 “ afterwards seemed very much pleased to
 “ hear of the Duel, and the Danger *Heartly*
 “ was in. At last I told him my Fears, and
 “ how I had acted; at which he flew in a
 “ violent Passion, d—n’d my Conscience,
 “ saying, He did not imagine before it
 “ stuck at any Thing: But I should repent
 “ it, for he would never see me more—nor
 “ have I indeed seen him since.”

“ VERY pretty!” exclaim’d Mr. *Freeborn*,
 “ my Daughter, without the Excuse of In-
 “ clination, was to be ruined, and Mr.
 “ *Heartly* or this Gentleman was to be killed
 “ upon her Account! It has pleased Provi-
 “ dence to preserve my Daughter’s Honour,
 “ and the Gentlemens Lives: But what Re-
 “ compence is to be made to Mr. *A*—,
 “ for the Loss of his Lady? The Regard he
 “ showed to my Family has occasioned him
 “ only

“ only now to be the Sufferer : But though
 “ you have a Promise of being not molested
 “ upon this Affair, Mr. *Gayton* must not,
 “ nor shall carry it off so.” Sir,” I answered,
 “ we have got at more than could
 “ be expected ; and, if you will trust it to
 “ me, after we have seen the Issue of Mr.
 “ *Hearily*’s Illness, you shall have ample Re-
 “ venge : But we must keep this Trans-
 “ action a Secret from every one, but those
 “ concerned.”

“ Miss,” I said to Miss *Lamour*, “ you
 “ mentioned your Aunt ; could you not as
 “ well have said your Mother ?” “ Sir !
 “ Sir !” she replied ; “ Sir ! how came you
 “ to know that ! But I can, at a proper
 “ Time, tell you something that concerns
 “ yourself — I beg now to be excused.”
 “ Upon your Honour to keep all these
 “ Things secret,” I replied, “ I do not de-
 “ sire to know now ; but assure yourself, I
 “ knew how Mr. *Gayton* and you schemed it
 “ at *Staines*, and that prevented your Marri-
 “ age.” “ Dear Sir,” she cried, “ no more
 “ — I will never speak a Word of this —
 “ Pray no more ! — “ It is your Interest,” I
 “ said, “ to keep your Word, for you too
 “ shall have full Revenge. What a villain-
 “ ous Method,” I cried, “ has been taken
 “ to impose upon poor *Hearily*’s Under-
 “ standing ! The only Kiss I ever gave Miss
 “ *Freeborn*, and that given in Complaisance
 “ to Miss *Steddy*, to occasion this Jealousy
 “ and

“ and Blood! But, Mr. *Gayton*, I will be a
 “ Match for you yet; let me but once more
 “ see *Heartly*, and find him do this young
 “ Lady the Justice due to the Esteem she
 “ has for him, and I shall have Leisure to
 “ attend you—As to Miss *Steddy*, I give
 “ her up to her own idle Notions.” “ No,”
 answered Mr. *Freeborn*, “ I am interested
 “ there, and must make an Excuse for her;
 “ perhaps she has been imposed on equally
 “ with ourselves—She had equal Reason
 “ with *Heartly*; though I could have wished,
 “ she had let me know where to send to
 “ her.”

Mr. *Reddy* received our Thanks, for his
 diligent Part; and Mr. *Freeborn* and his
 Daughter went to their Home, promising I
 should know how Things went. Miss *La-*
mour took her Leave of me, with Assurance
 that she had something of Importance to
 communicate to me, and, when she was at
 Liberty to do it, she would. I did not press
 her to tell me, and, enjoining her Secrecy
 again, I went to the Coffee-house, for the
 first Time since my Duel. There I heard
 that Mr. *Scruple* had married his Daughter
 off very well, and the Day after had mar-
 ried his House-keeper. So, thought I, Miss
Sukey has managed her Part very dexter-
 ously. I could not help being pleased with
 the Girl's Conduct, especially as she had pre-
 vailed upon the old Fellow to give his
 Daughter an handsome Sum down; and
 which,

which, it was more than probable, he would not have done, had not his own Fondness for Miss *Sukey* given her the Ascendant over his Covetousness.

A good many Compliments were paid me, and a good many Questions asked me, as to the Occasion of the Quarrel: But, as it was no one's Business to know, I answered in general, The Point was too delicate to be communicated to too many.

THE next Day Miss *Lamour* came again, full of the good Fortune that had happened to her late Maid; "She has married a Man, they say, worth Twenty Thousand Pounds," she cried: "What, I wonder, could he see in her? But it is better to be fortunate than rich." "Miss *Lamour*," I said, "I have been told you taught her to wheedle him; and she is an apt Scholar, I find—It cannot injure you at all—She has done well, I think; and *Gayton's* Child will be as warm at his Fire-side, as at a Parish-Nurse's." She coloured, but turned the Discourse, by telling me, She had received a Letter from *Gayton*, which she showed to me.

"Dear *Kitty*,

"I AM sorry for the Hastiness of my Temper, last Time I saw you. I am obliged to go out of Town, but as soon as I come back, I will wait upon you; yet I think it proper to inform you, That
"I know

" I know for certain Miss *Freeborn* and her
 " Father visit Mr. *A—* ; so I imagine
 " Things are likely to be made up there, as
 " *Heartly* is out of Danger. I do not doubt
 " but there will be great Enquiry made into
 " the Affair, and how it happened Miss
 " came to go to Mr. *A—*'s Lodgings. Pray
 " be secret ; for, if we do not discover our-
 " selves, no one else can. Assure yourself
 " I esteem you, and am

" *Yours,*

" THOMAS GAYTON."

" THIS Letter, " Miss, I said, " I must
 " keep. You find I know more of your
 " Transactions than you thought, or could
 " have any way imagined I did ; yet so it is,
 " and I must be obliged in this," " Well,"
 said she, " I believe you deal with the De-
 " vil ; but, as a Proof of my being sorry
 " for what I have done, keep it."

SHE scarce spoke, when my Brother came
 in ; and she cried at once, " I see you have
 " Company ; good bye." He was glad to
 see me, and expressed a great deal of Con-
 cern at what had happened ; saying, he was
 sent by Miss *Freeborn*, to know if I was at
 Home : That he had been informed, by his
 Master, what I had done for him, and he
 would deserve my future Favour.

HE was very inquisitive after Miss *Lamour*,
 and I told him who she was. He was certain
 he knew her, and said she was like his Sister.

I laugh-

I laughed at that, yet was mightily pleased to see him so much improved, and assured him he should want no Encouragement I could give him; and then telling him I would wait for Miss, he went to her.

WHEN she came, she had a great deal of News for me: *Heartly*," said she, "asked
 "for me Yesterday, when I was here; and
 "was told, I was with you. And where is
 "Mr. *Freeborn*?" "With his Daughter,"
 Mrs. *Williams* said. "What have I done! He
 "replied. Pray let me see them, when they
 "return. Accordingly, my Father went to
 "him—He again asked for me. She is not
 "well, my Father answered. *Heartly* cried,
 "She is well enough to visit Mr. *A*—; I
 "want to speak to her. To which my Fa-
 "ther said, He has not injured her, as you
 "have, Mr. *Heartly*; and, as he suffers
 "through her Means, he claims her attend-
 "ance in some Part. Oh! answered *Heart-*
 "ly, let me see her—I am grossly abused,
 "or you are blind. I could yet believe her
 "—Let her deny it, and I will believe her
 "—But what Business has she with Mr.
 "*A*—? He suffer, through her Means!—
 "Not the Half I suffer—I love her—Oh!
 "what Pain at my Heart do I feel? Mr.
 "*Heartly*, replied my Father, you have
 "been grossly abused; nor can I tell whe-
 "ther my Authority will prevail on my
 "Daughter to see you. I can help half
 "Way to undeceive you; did you not re-
 "ceive

“ ceive a Letter concerning a Kifs?—Do you
 “ know who sent it?—Pray where is it?
 “ Here, said *Heartly*; how did you know I
 “ received it? From Miss *Lamour*, my Fa-
 “ ther answered; and the whole Scheme so
 “ unhappily successful to the Loss of your
 “ Friend and mine, and the Disgrace of my
 “ Daughter; and then told him the whole
 “ of their Contrivance. Oh! said *Heartly*,
 “ where were my Senses? Where was that
 “ Opinion I ought to have had of her Inte-
 “ grity! Fool! What has my Rashness done!
 “ By Heaven, *Gayton* laughed in my Face,
 “ when he told me the Truth maliciously.
 “ That da—n’d Letter was the Reason I
 “ turned even Truth to my Poison. Well,
 “ Mr. *Heartly*, answered my Father, I will
 “ bring my Daughter to you, if I can; and,
 “ when you are able to go out, fully search
 “ out the Truth. I am convinced of the
 “ Honour of my Daughter, and her too
 “ great Love for you; and of the Sincerity
 “ of that Gentleman, we might still have
 “ called Friend—But his Loss is great. Is
 “ he dead! cried *Heartly*. No, said my Fa-
 “ ther, he is better: But Miss *Steddy*, take-
 “ ing it for granted your Jealousy was well
 “ founded, is gone, no one knows whither.
 “ That is his Loss; and, as they loved each
 “ other, a great one. Here,” added she,
 “ is the curious Letter of Mischief—I have
 “ not seen *Heartly* yet, but shall when I go
 “ Home:

“ Home: Though I will punish him, indeed.” The Letter contained as follows:

“ SIR,

“ I AM a Stranger to your Person, though
 “ not to your Character; and I think it a
 “ Duty to inform you, I have Reason to be-
 “ lieve you are imposed upon by your Friend,
 “ Mr. A—. Miss *Freeborn* and he appear
 “ to me to be too great—It is known he
 “ kisses her—I have seen him kiss her; when,
 “ I believe, they thought no one saw them—
 “ It is a Pity a Gentleman should be so much
 “ imposed upon. If you think it worth
 “ your while, I will attest it when you please.
 “ I can do no more than give you this kind
 “ Information, and beg you to believe I
 “ honour your Merit: which occasioned
 “ this Trouble from,

“ Sir,

“ *Your humble Servant.*”

OBSERVING there was no Name to this Epistle, I could not help remarking that, had *Heartly* given himself one Minute's Time to think, he would have been puzzled to find his Informer; and that these anonymous Letters ought to have had no Weight, with a Person of his good Sense. “ But, Miss,” I added, “ I have now real Advice to give you; and, in taking it, you will very much oblige me. One Kiss has occasion'd a great deal of Blood, and,
 I “ when

“ when *Heartly* and you meet, I desire you
 “ to give him twenty. He has suffered
 “ enough; and I engage, now his Eyes are
 “ opened, he will suffer more. He has
 “ more to feel now his Senses are about him,
 “ than he could feel in his Fever. Meet his
 “ Love with Tenderness, and impute his
 “ Reproaches to his Madness.” “ Pretty
 “ Advice, indeed,” she answered; “ but,
 “ I confess, I want to see how he will be-
 “ have, or what he wants to see me so much
 “ for.” “ Very well, Miss,” I replied;
 “ but take this Letter of Mr. *Gayton*’s with
 “ you, and *Heartly* will be mad indeed.”

WHEN she had read it, she cry’d, “ He
 “ shall have it, and your Compliments, I
 “ assure you.” After she was gone, I took
 it into my Head that I would go thither my-
 self; thinking, as I had been at the Coffee-
 House, it would look odd if I did not.

C H A P. XVI.

*Contains Mr. Heartly’s and the Author’s Meet-
 ing. An Instance of Miss Steddy’s Genero-
 sity. Marriage intended to be inflicted on two
 Criminals, as a Punishment. The Author
 goes into the Country—On what Account.
 Another Instance of Gayton’s Villainy.*

WHEN I came to Mr. *Freeborn*’s, my
 first Entry gave me an Earnest of the
 Reception I should meet with farther; the
 Servants showing a visible Satisfaction, in my
 making

making my Appearance among them again. One run to acquaint my Brother, not knowing I had seen him, that I was there : But, instead of him, Mr. *Freeborn* came to me, saying, “ This is kind, to prevent us ! *Heartly* “ has desired to see you. My Daughter is “ with him, and I will introduce you.”

WHEN we came to his Chamber, Mr. *Freeborn* went in, and told him an Acquaintance was come to visit him. I thought he would have started out of Bed : “ Is it possible ! ” He cry’d—“ I do not deserve this Favour—I “ suffer now indeed—Oh ! my Friend, what “ did I endeavour to do ?

Miss *Freeborn* was sitting upon his Bed, and it was plainly to be perceived their first Interview had been tender. She said, “ You “ never told me your Intentions, or I would “ have forewarned Mr. *Heartly*—He was just “ pressing me to send for you.” “ My dear “ *Heartly*,” I cry’d, “ I am heartily glad to “ see you so well, and in such Company. We “ are neither to blame ; I, from my Soul, “ forgive you, and think the Accident is better for us both.” “ I am ashamed,” he replied ; “ I ought to be so—How have I “ injured this dear Object of all my Wishes ! “ How would I have been pleased to have “ killed you ! Come, come,” said I, “ it “ is past : Let us now only remember, we “ owe some justice to this Lady. Get well, “ and *Gayton* must be punished in his Turn.” “ Oh, Lord ! ” cry’d Miss *Freeborn*, “ I have

“ forgot the Letter, as indeed, Mr. *A*—, I
 “ did my Resentment—He seemed so sorry,
 “ that I could not be angry : But there it is ;
 “ pray now, Mr. *Heartly*, read that.”

WHEN he had read the Letter, he replied,
 “ I could never have believed it of him. I
 “ still thought it was Miss *Lamour*’s Contrive-
 “ ance, and she named him only to screen
 “ herself : But the Villain shall feel my Re-
 “ sentment. What ! Rape and Murder !
 “ What a Dupe ! What a Fool have I been !
 “ First to be the Dupe of Mr. Nobody, and
 “ then the Fool of Mr. *Gayton*. I have now
 “ nothing to disturb my Spirits, and shall be
 “ well in a few Days. I am happy again in
 “ LOVE and FRIENDSHIP—With what Ten-
 “ derness has she forgiven me ! and with
 “ what Care have you undeceived me !”

MR. *Freeborn* said, He was now again him-
 self ; and Mrs. *Heartly* asked my Pardon, for
 not coming to see me. Mrs. *Williams* ex-
 pressed herself, That she never thought it
 would be otherwise ; for she had too good an
 Opinion of me and Miss, to believe either of
 us capable of harbouring a Thought of so
 base an Action, as was imputed to us : In
 short, an universal Joy spread through the
 Family ; only poor *Heartly* was very much
 dejected at Miss *Steddy*’s Absence, yet hoped
 the good News would reach her, and then he
 was sure, from what he had seen of her good
 Nature, she would be as ready to ask my
 Pardon,

Pardon, as he had been Miss *Freeborn's*; and he desired I would grant it with as much Facility and Tenderness, as she had done. Upon which I answered him, That my Inclinations would readily conform to his Desire, and that, if I might form my Judgment upon her Letter to me, I imagined it would not be an easy Matter to find out where she had secreted herself. "I blame," I said, "her precipitate Resolution, and can make no other Excuse for it, than the good Opinion she had of you. She must think you had sufficient Reasons for what you did, and your Reasons served her. This softens my Resentment, and will prevent my withdrawing the Esteem I have professed for her, and hinder my fixing it elsewhere."

"ALL this," answered *Heartly*, "I have occasion'd, for want of a Minute's Thought: Yet I think her Affairs will require her to let Mr. *Freeborn* know where she is." "Indeed," replied Mr. *Freeborn*, "they will not; for I settled with her entirely when she was here, and put the *India* Bonds, and all other Securities, into her own Hands: She telling me, That as Mr. *A*—— had been so generous as never to ask her what her Fortune was, she should chuse to surprise him with more, she believed, than he expected; and, as to any Settlement, she would have no Lawyer's Business at

“ her Wedding, for she was so well convinced
 “ of Mr. A—’s Honour and Generosity, that
 “ he would prevent her asking him for any
 “ Thing; and, since she had resolved to
 “ give her Person to him, he should take
 “ all.” “ Pray, Papa,” Miss *Freeborn* asked,
 “ what, if it is a fair Question, may she be
 “ worth?” I think,” he answered, “ it is a
 “ Question I am at Liberty to answer:
 “ She is not worth much less than Twenty
 “ Thousand Pounds. She has been pretty
 “ lucky in two or three Lotteries, and is very
 “ frugal. She has lived quite retired, since
 “ I knew her: Her Expences are really
 “ trifling, so that her Money has constantly
 “ made Money.”

“ WELL,” said *Heartly*, “ this is all my
 “ Doings, and my Punishment is to be hap-
 “ pier than I have deserved: But I shall ne-
 “ ver perfectly enjoy myself, ’till the Inno-
 “ cent are as happy as myself.” “ My good
 “ Friend,” I answered, “ be not uneasy
 “ upon my Account: I am meditating a
 “ a pretty severe Revenge upon Mr. *Gayton*,
 “ which, when you are well enough to assist
 “ me in, I will inform you of.” “ For
 “ God’s sake, no more fighting,” cry’d Miss
Freeborn. “ No, no, Miss, I assure you,”
 I replied, “ I am under no Apprehension of
 “ *Gayton*’s having any Manner of Inclination
 “ to that Sort of Sport: These Writers of
 “ anonymous Letters are generally great
 “ Enemies

“ Enemies to the Sight of Blood. Stabbing
 “ in the Dark is a pretty safe Method ; and
 “ the Discovery we have made is not from
 “ any Contrition in Miss *Lamour*, but from
 “ a Pique of Resentment, at *Gayton’s* treat-
 “ ing her in that vulgar Manner. We are
 “ indebted to her Anger, not her Sorrow ;
 “ and, I promise you, she shall have her Share
 “ in the Punishment her Paramour is to un-
 “ dergo. What would you think now, if I
 “ should contrive it so as to couple them to-
 “ gether ?” “ Exquisite Revenge,” said
Heartly, “ if it was but possible to be brought
 “ about—Is that it ? I will assist you.” “ I
 “ know,” I answered, “ she loves him, and
 “ will be ready enough ; and if, as I intend
 “ he shall, he marries her, Jealousy at the
 “ same Moment enters the House, and a
 “ Dog and Cat would agree better than
 “ them. They know so much of each other,
 “ that there would never be wanting Fuel to
 “ keep up a continual Heart-burning be-
 “ tween them. The accomplished Lady
 “ will be lost in the Wife, and the Beau
 “ show a mere Nothing in the Husband.”

Mr. *Freeborn* and Miss thought I should find
 great Difficulties in the Execution of my
 Scheme : I do not think so,” I said ; “ but
 “ they must be let alone a little. Let *Gay-*
 “ *ton* be lulled in a perfect Belief, that he is
 “ not suspected in this Affair, and leave the
 “ rest to me.”

THEY wished me Success, and I took my Leave of my Friend and went Home, where I found a Letter from Mr. *Williams*: Who wrote me Word, how sorry he was to hear of what had happen'd among us; and that, being fully satisfied some gross Imposition had been put upon *Heartly*, he had not forgot the Promise he had made me, of doing something for Mr. *Reddy*; and, being now in his Power, he desired me to inform him, That he had a Place of considerable Profit to dispose of, and intended it for him, but there was a Charge upon it: "The good Man
 " who possessed it last left one Daughter,
 " without any Fortune," he wrote; "and
 " if Mr. *Reddy* will take a Wife of my re-
 " commending, the Place shall go with her.
 " We have several here who would be glad
 " of my Offer. She is a very good Girl,
 " and not unhandsome; so pray desire
 " him to be as expeditious as he can, in
 " giving me his Answer: But you may in-
 " form him, the Place is worth above One
 " Hundred Pounds a Year, and requires little
 " Attendance; with an House in good Re-
 " pair, a pretty Orchard, and many other
 " little Conveniences."

I MADE no Manner of Doubt of Mr. *Reddy*'s accepting the Offer, so the next Morning I took a Ride to acquaint him with the News. At Mr. *Fainall*'s I found Mr. *Gayton*, who expressed great Satisfaction at Mr. *Heartly*'s
 being

being well recovered ; by which I was sure that, notwithstanding *Reddy's* communicative Temper, he had kept our Secret, and was very well pleased with his Conduct. I told *Reddy* my Journey was on purpose to him ; but before I let him know the Business, he must hear me a few Words, and, as it was of no Manner of Consequence, I would speak before the Company. “ I have received a Letter,” I said, “ wherein there is an advantageous Offer made you, and which I would advise you to accept of ; but, as it is attended with an Incumbrance, I must desire you to weigh well what you do. Marriage is for Life, and do not let the Good balance the Bad, nor make a Person afterwards unhappy, because you only regarded what she brought you, and not how you liked her. There is Mr. *Williams's* Letter, but mind what I say to you.”

He replied, after reading it, “ I am very much obliged to him and you ; but I have attended to what you said, and do not chuse to take a Pig in a Poke.” “ There is no Necessity for that, I replied : Take your Horse, pay Mr. *Williams* a Visit, and see the Whole.”

THIS was agreed to, and his Impatience was so great, that he set out the Minute after he had dined. “ I am sure,” said *Gayton*, “ he will take her and the Place : *Reddy* is

“sharp set.” “I agree with you this once,
 “I replied; because I know Mr. *Williams*
 “would not have recommended a Wife to
 “him, unless she was one he ought to accept
 “of.” “That I believe to be true,” said
 Mrs. *Fainall*; “but I have heard a Gentle-
 “man’s Mistress has sometimes helped an
 “Acquaintance to good Preferment, by be-
 “coming his Wife.” Aye, aye,” cry’d
 “*Fainall*, “such Things have been done,
 “and what mighty Thing is in it? When
 “my Lord or a Gentleman’s Passion cools,
 “if Miss repents and stoops to marry the
 “Man he chuses for her, she is secure from
 “Reproach.”

I ASKED *Gayton* when he had seen Miss
Lamour? “Not some Days,” he answered:
 “We quarrell’d last Time we were together,
 “but I will make it up with her when I go
 “to Town, which I intend to do To-morrow
 “— She is a good Girl in the Main.” Ac-
 cordingly, in the Morning he set off, and I
 acquainted Mr. and Mrs. *Fainall* what an
 Hand he had, in occasioning *Heartly* and me
 to quarrel; but that we should enjoin him a
 Penance, which would not prove a little
 vexatious to him. “Well,” said she, “I
 “do not want to know, but neither you nor
 “my Brother can use him bad enough. Mr.
 “*Fainall* stood to it all along there was some
 “foul Doing, and that my Brother had been
 “made the Fool of some designing Villain or
 “other: But *Gayton*, when he came, seem’d
 “fo

“ so pleased that you were both well again,
 “ that we never suspected him in the least.”
 “ Faith, answered *Fainall*, I did not know
 “ whom to suspect, it was so odd an Affair;
 “ only assure yourself, I never suspected Miss
 “ *Freeborn* nor you. I am pretty well ac-
 “ quainted with Mr. *Gayton*’s Proficiency in
 “ the Art of Dissimulation, but I thought it
 “ impossible that he should be capable of
 “ imposing upon my Brother-in-Law, as he
 “ knew his Tricks so well and so lately.

“ BUT now we are talking of *Gayton*,”
 continued Mr. *Fainall*, “ I will tell you a
 “ Story of him, which he calls his Master-
 “ piece. About five Years ago he courted
 “ a very pretty young Lady, with her Fa-
 “ ther’s Consent; and every Thing, as to
 “ Fortune and Settlement, was agreed
 “ upon, and Preparations making for the
 “ Wedding; in which Time he was very
 “ solicitous with Miss, to anticipate the Cere-
 “ mony. He confesses, he was a long while
 “ persuading her to hearken to his Proposal;
 “ however, at last she suffered herself to be
 “ over-prevailed upon, and a Servant he
 “ then had married them. In about a
 “ Week’s Time his Passion cooled, and one
 “ Night he put his Servant to bed to her,
 “ when she was fast asleep. He then im-
 “ mediately called up her Father, and, tell-
 “ ing what a Discovery he had made, begged
 “ his Pardon if he refused to marry his Man’s
 “ W——. Away they went to Miss’s
 “ Chamber

“ Chamber—The Father’s Agony is not
 “ easily expressed—The Noise they made in
 “ entering waked her—*Gayton* favoured his
 “ Man’s Escape, though he made two or
 “ three false Passes at him, swearing he
 “ would kill the Dog. Miss was in the
 “ utmost Confusion and Distress: She knew
 “ herself guilty of having listened to *Gayton*,
 “ and saw herself over-reached. It was to no
 “ Purpose to talk to her Father: His own Eyes
 “ had seen the Man in Bed, and they were
 “ stronger Evidences than all her Pleadings.
 “ *Gayton* triumphantly took his Leave, and
 “ Miss was kept two Years a Prisoner, never
 “ once seeing her Father; who, then dying,
 “ left her only what he could not leave from
 “ her, a little Estate, which was her’s in
 “ Right of her Mother. Thither she went,
 “ and there she lives retired; mourning her
 “ Folly, and lamenting his Villainy.”

“ MR. *Fainall*,” said his Wife, “ how
 “ can you bear the Sight of him, after such
 “ a Story!” My Dear,” he replied, “ I was
 “ then sunk in fashionable Vice, and thought
 “ all Play fair Play, when a pretty Woman
 “ was concerned. I tell this now to show
 “ our Friend what *Gayton* can do, not that I
 “ now approve of it. I assure you, now I
 “ view it in a different Light.” “ How
 “ unhappy,” I said, “ must the Life of that
 “ young Lady be! How severe her Re-
 “ flections upon her own precipitate Consent!
 “ Assure yourself, *Gayton*, Punishment waits
 “ you

“ you, though not adequate to your Villainy.”

WHEN I returned to Town, I found Miss *Williams* at Mr. *Freeborn's*; she being taken from School, to go with her Mamma into the country. They now only waited 'till *Heartly's* Wedding was over, who had been Abroad, and was quite recover'd. He had many Questions asked him at the Coffee-House; to which he answered, That he had been greatly imposed upon, by some nameless Rascal or other; whom, if he should ever be so happy as to discover, he would heartily thank with his Cane. “ *Gayton*,” added he, “ was present, and seemed to me not to relish the promised Favour.”

WHEN I told *Fainall's* Story to them, Miss *Williams* gave great Attention to it; and, I believe, it had more Effect in driving her foolish Notion of Love out of her Head, than her Confinement. She cried heartily at the sad Account, and agreed with every one present, that *Gayton* was a consummate Villain. Mrs. *Williams* said, “ A pretty Fellow to make an Husband, indeed!” and was going on to repeat some old Grievances: But her Daughter prevented her, by assuring her she should never think of him more, nor would ever give any Occasion to have her Conduct questioned again—And Miss was restored perfectly to her Mother's Favour.

I HAD then to inform them, upon what Errand Mr. *Reddy* was gone; and Mrs. *Williams* told

told us, she had also received a Letter from her Nephew, in which he informed her who the young Woman was; that she had seen her, when she was last in the Country; and that she was a very agreeable sober Person; and wished *Reddy*, if he approved of the Place and her, might make so good an Husband as she seemed to deserve. *Heartly* and Mr. *Freeborn* observed, he did not want Sense or good Nature; and, as he had lately been so mortified in his own Love-Affairs, he might think it prudent to accept another's Recommendation; and that, as she was said to be a deserving young Woman, they did not doubt his behaving well to her.

"Yes, indeed," said Miss *Freeborn*, "I believe he will upon two Accounts. It is his Interest to have a Regard to Mr. *Williams's* Recommendation; and to use her well, if he would keep well with him: But I shall be glad to hear Mr. *Reddy's* own Sentiments upon the Matter." I answered, "He will no Way disoblige Mr. *Williams* by a Refusal, he would rather commend him for it; but he loses his Favour intirely, if he discovers his Choice was made with both Eyes fixed upon the Place. He is so good an Husband himself, that he will not favour one who is not."

Mr. *Freeborn* told me, I should not know his House now, it was so altered; upon which I privately asked *Heartly*, when he proposed should be his Wedding? To which he replied,

plied, " I am greatly perplexed in my
 " own Thoughts : I ought now to have it as
 " soon as possible, but then where is Miss
 " *Steddy* ? I cannot bear that, when I have
 " drove her away by my Folly and made
 " you unhappy, I should be hastening my
 " own Happiness." I answered, " That I
 " insisted upon her not being mentioned to
 " me any more upon that Account. In
 " Justice to the Character of Miss *Freeborn*,
 " you ought to give the World a Proof of
 " your Opinion of her, by a speedy Mar-
 " riage. Miss *Steddy* will be found ; and if
 " you would have me regard your Requests
 " to me, or your Professions of Friendship,
 " make no formal ceremonious Delay.
 " More is due to LOVE now, than to FRIEND-
 " SHIP : And even supposing Miss *Freeborn*
 " approves of your Reasons, I am of Opinion
 " she will not be displeased with me, for
 " prevailing with you to dispense with them."
 " Well," he replied, " it shall be as you de-
 " fire : I will speak to Mr. *Freeborn*, and,
 " as every Thing is ready it shall be at Miss's
 " own Time."

I HAD an Opportunity of speaking to Miss
 upon the same Subject ; and told her, As our
 Quarrel, upon her Account, had made no
 little Noise, the World would never impute
 to FRIENDSHIP the Delay of her Wedding ;
 and, to put a Stop to Calumny and Scandal
 at once, it was proper it should be as soon
 as possible : I therefore begged her to fix the
 Day

Day as soon as she could, as I believed the Question would soon be put to her. "Lord," she answered, "*Heartly* does not know his own Mind two Minutes.—But your Reasons shall have due Weight with me. I am such a Fool, I shall say as he would have me." When I came Home, I found the following Letter from Mr. *Reddy*.

C H A P. XVII.

Mr. Reddy's Success. Miss Lamour's important Matter. The Author gives Miss Lamour's Brother Directions for his Behaviour to her Mother. A Visit—And other Things of Consequence.

"S I R,
 "I SET down, in the greatest Tran-
 "quillity of Mind, to return you my
 "sincere Thanks for your Share in promote-
 "ing my good Fortune, so much beyond
 "my Deserts.—Mr. *Williams* desires his
 "Compliments to all his Friends. Indeed
 "he has acted the Part of a Father to me,
 "more than a Friend; and his Recommend-
 "ation does Honour to his Judgment, on the
 "Part of the young Lady. I am ashamed,
 "now I behold so many TRUE, that ever I
 "could suffer myself a Moment to like *false*
 "Accomplishments. Where I am, I see
 "Beauty, Innocence, and Modesty in their
 "primitive State. I now admire Neatness,
 "though out of the Mode; and prefer dis-
 "creet

“ creet Converse, to over-bearing Wit. My
 “ Charmer, to say all as it were in a Word,
 “ is the Reverse of Miss *Lamour*; and has
 “ obligingly let Mr. *Williams* know, she has
 “ no Objection to me. I could not defer
 “ letting you know my Happiness. I am
 “ now in the Possession of my Place, which
 “ is both Honourable and Profitable; and
 “ shall shortly be the most happy among
 “ mortal Race. My Heart overflows with
 “ Gratitude and Love. I have snatch’d
 “ these few Moments from my Charmer;
 “ and, desiring you to let my Friends know
 “ my Happiness, subscribe myself,

“ *Your most obedient,*

“ *And most humble Servant,*

“ *ANTHONY REDDY.”*

I HAD but just read it when Miss *Lamour*
 came in, very grave and seemingly full of
 Thought. “ So, Miss,” said I, “ what
 “ mighty Matter has happened, that occa-
 “ sions you to wear so grave a Face? Are
 “ Mr. *Gayton* and you at Variance still?”
 “ No, indeed,” she replied, “ we are per-
 “ fect good Friends now; and he is so
 “ pleased that he is unsuspected, that he
 “ vows he will never be angry with me any
 “ more.” “ Very pretty,” I answered;
 “ so his good Humour makes you sufficient
 “ Amends, for your genteel Way of Living
 “ with him. I suppose now you are sorry,
 “ you discovered this good-humoured Gen-
 “ tleman’s

" tleman's Baseness." " Why indeed,"
 she said, " I believe, was it to do now, I
 " should not be so hasty—But he has told
 " me what *Heartly* said at the Coffee-House
 " —Lord though, it would have made me
 " laugh if he had been caned, so I had not
 " been suspected of occasioning it—I love
 " Mischief mightily." " I am very sensi-
 " ble you do, Miss," I answered; " but if
 " Mr. *Gayton* is not the Cause of this unusual
 " Gravity, pray may I ask you what is?"
 " Why," she replied—" But you must pro-
 " mise me not to be angry—Will you pro-
 " mise?" " I will," I answered, " if it is
 " no new Mischief; no more Rapes and
 " Murder." " Lord!" she cried, " what a
 " terrible Speech there is—But you know,
 " I told you I had an important Matter to
 " discover to you, and my Mother has given
 " me Leave—But I am in such Confusion,
 " I do not know how—I make a strange Fi-
 " gure, I am sure—Well, it must come
 " out, and it is no more than that I am
 " your Half-Sister." " My Half-Sister!"
 I answered; " Miss you talk Riddles: Pray
 " let me know how I came by the Honour
 " of so near an Alliance?" " Why," she
 replied, " your Father was my Father, and
 " him you have owned for your Brother is
 " my Brother. I knew him the first Time
 " I saw him at Mr. *Freeborn's*, which was
 " the Reason I kept away 'till he was gone
 " to *Lisbon*. I was afraid he would know
 " me,

“ me, and we did not think it so proper
 “ then. We were afraid you would have
 “ resented my Mother’s putting him upon
 “ you, and that you would have obliged her
 “ to maintain him; which would by no
 “ Means have been agreeable to our Affairs,
 “ as they were managed—It would have
 “ ruined us.” We are,” I said, “ perfect-
 “ ly obliged to your Mother, and happy in
 “ having found such a Sister. Her Fears
 “ were certainly well grounded, and I should
 “ have acted as she imagined. But now I
 “ think she claims my warmest Thanks for
 “ her prudent Manner of Educating you,
 “ and her Tendernefs of your Reputation.
 “ Mother indeed was too harsh a Name for
 “ a Bawd to her own Daughter—Aunt was
 “ much more modish.” “ Lord,” she cried,
 “ I find you are angry; I am sorry I came
 “ of this Errand.” “ No, no, Miss,” I re-
 plied, “ not at all; but surely, you will agree
 “ with me that she deserves all our Thanks.
 “ she knew Idleness was the Ruin of many
 “ young People, so prudently set you to
 “ work early to maintain yourself. Indeed
 “ she suited her Labour discreetly enough
 “ to your Inclination and Constitution—You
 “ had no Reason of Complaint—Mr. *Scruple*,
 “ Mr. *G*—, and Mr. *L*—, were sober
 “ Gentlemen, and no one could suspect their
 “ Visits were upon any impure Account—
 “ The Table and Character were equally
 “ maintained, and the Neice was good-na-
 “ tured

“ tured enough to assist the Aunt in her Decline of Life.” “ Oh, Lord!” she cried, “ I am ruined: Did you not promise to forgive me?” “ I did, Miss; and do indeed,” I said, “ and sincerely pity you, but I did not promise to forgive her: Nor can you, if you have any Sense of what Reputation was, or Character ought to be. A Mother to seduce her Daughter! to lead her into Wickedness! to draw the Curtains round the Bed of Sin! and to eat and drink of the Gains of a Child’s Dishonour! The Guardian of your Innocency, to be the Bawd to it! I abhor her!”

THIS set Miss into a violent Fit of Crying. She dropped upon her Knees, and begged Forgiveness for her Mother as well as herself, pretending a great deal of Sorrow for her bad way of Life. As to her being sorry, I confess I believed very little of it; but, as I had meditated my Revenge upon Mr. Gayton, I thought it would not be proper to show any publick Resentment, so I suffered myself to be prevailed upon to forgive her Mother also: Upon which Miss became pacified, and made me a pretty ingenuous Confession; telling me, That when my Father died, he did not leave above Five Hundred Pounds, besides the Household Furniture behind him— That then they removed into the City for fear I should come and claim the Effects, changing their Names to *Lamour*; and, by her Mother’s Direction, she passed for her
 Neice,

Neice, tho' without any Notion upon what Intent—That her Mother having some Business with Mr. *Scruple*, he soon became intimate at their House; and she being not above Fifteen, he expressed a great Liking to her—That in short, for Five Hundred Pounds, she was prevailed upon to give herself up to him, and he in a Manner kept them at a great Expence—That indeed her Mother found Means to introduce two other old Gentlemen to her, though without their ever suspecting each other; and, having some Money now to put out, Mr. *Scruple* recommended Mr. *Freeborn*, and that occasioned her becoming acquainted with Miss—That it was owing to *Sukey*, that Mr. *Scruple* discovered her receiving other Company; upon which he took *Sukey* away, and had since married her. “Very well, Miss; your
“Mother,” I said, “introduced the three
“old Gentlemen, and you let the young
“one introduce himself. I assure you, I am
“no Stranger to your whole Conduct. You
“have a most excellent Mother: Pray what
“might be her Motive for sending you to
“me with this great Piece of News?”
“Why,” she answered, “she was afraid
“that somehow or other it would be known,
“and she thought to make you her Friend
“by letting you know it from her; and as
“she had your Father’s Watch, which he
“desired might be given to you, she has
“sent it by me, and here it is.” “Well.”

I answered

I answered, "it will serve your Brother:
 "And now Miss, or Sister, as *Gayton* once
 "said to you about *Reddy*, I say to you
 "about *Gayton*, you must marry him; that
 "shall be your Punishment." "Marry
 "him!" she replied; "I cannot think he
 "will have me." "That is no Business of
 "yours," I said; "if you expect any Fa-
 "vour from me you must keep this a Se-
 "cret, and be ready, when called upon, to
 "marry him; for I tell you again, you must
 "marry *Gayton*." "Lord!" she cried,
 "your Punishment is very easy!—But may I
 "tell my Mother you forgive her?" "Yes,
 "Sister," I answered, "you may; but do
 "not so much as whisper what I have told
 "you, for if *Gayton* has the least Suspicion
 "of the Good intended him he will be gone,
 "and then the most compleat accomplished
 "Couple in the World, for Virtue and In-
 "tegrity of Heart, will be parted." "I
 "very well understand you," she replied;
 "but I am in your Power, and I must bear
 "some of your Reflections: But you may
 "depend upon it I will not revenge myself,
 "by telling *Gayton* your Scheme."

THE next Day, after Dinner, at Mr.
Freeborn's, I communicated Mr. *Reddy's* Let-
 ter to the Company; and they were all well
 pleased with his good Fortune, and glad his
 Letter was filled with the Praises of his in-
 tended Wife, rather than of the Place—
 "The Reverse of Miss *Lamour*," was al-
 lowed

lowed to be a good Omen of his future Happiness—I too acquainted them with my new Sister. My Brother seemed quite ashamed of her, and very awkwardly asked me how I would have him behave to her? “As a Brother ought,” I answered; “for the Shame of Miss *Lamour* shall be lost in Mrs. *Gayton*.” “When! When!” said Miss *Freeborn*. “Before your Name is *Heartly*,” Miss, I replied. “You must make haste then,” answered Mr. *Freeborn*, “for there has been a Consultation upon what you said, and *Tuesday* Sevensnight is the Day fixed.” To which I replied, laughing, “There is Time enough between this and then, to marry them and divorce them. I had indeed once thought, to have made him do Justice to the young Lady he so basely injured; but I find she will not bear his Name, and that would not have been Punishment enough, so I am well pleased she will not consent to hear any Thing about him. No, no, my Sister will make his Heart ach, or I am mistaken.” “Your Sister!” said Miss *Freeborn*; “you seem to like the Word: Yet I think as you do, he will meet with his Punishment in his Wife.” “As to my Sister and my Mother,” said my Brother, “I shall always regard my Brother’s Directions, though in this they go against the Grain. For one has disgraced me and herself, and the other would have abandoned

“ doned me; nay, in Fact did, without any
 “ Regard to what was to become of me—I
 “ have great Reason to treat them with
 “ Duty and Love!” “ Why, I confess,”
 I replied, “ you have no great Reason, but
 “ at present it is necessary. You will not
 “ long be troubled with them, I believe;
 “ and, when once they are out of your Way,
 “ you will not be required to go into theirs:
 “ You may be as cool as I shall be when the
 “ Affair is once settled.” “ I am glad of it,”
 he answered; “ I think I can behave well
 “ towards them for a few Days, and heartily
 “ wish you Success.” No one could blame
 him; and, as to my own Part, I took it as
 an Earnest of his future good Behaviour,
 that he shewed his Resentment at his Sister’s
 past Conduct.

IN the Afternoon I proposed to my Bro-
 ther to visit his Mother, and I would go with
 him. Miss *Freeborn* looked at *Heartly*, who,
 guessing her Inclination, said, “ Miss, I would
 “ have you and Miss *Williams* go too.
 “ *Gayton* will think himself perfectly safe,
 “ when he hears you have been there.”
 “ I did not know,” she answered, “ whe-
 “ ther you might think it proper, but I
 “ should chuse to go.”

ACCORDINGLY we four went — Madam
 was in the greatest Confusion at seeing us,
 but expressed great Tenderness towards her
 Son; and excused herself, as well as she
 could, which indeed was indifferently enough.

My

My Brother answered her, That she was her own Mistress, and at Liberty to act as she pleased; there was no Reason to make herself culpable to him, by making Excuses for her Behaviour: That it pleased Providence to make me the Instrument of providing for him, beyond her Expectation, and his utmost Hopes: "But," added he, "had not my Brother been indued with Virtue and Humanity beyond some others, I must patiently have submitted to my Fortune, and got my Living as well as I could—an Outcast—a Vagabond—without Home or Relation."

THIS Reply, it was visible, struck her to the Heart — when luckily *Gayton* came in. He seemed surprized, and begged Miss *Freeborn's* Pardon, for the little Familiarities he had used towards her, when he had last the Honour of seeing her; but that really he had been drinking pretty freely. She told him, Drunkenness was the worst Excuse a Gentleman could make for Misbehaviour; but, as it was over, she had forgot it.

GAYTON would fain have had an Opportunity of speaking to Miss *Williams* privately, but she behaved very coolly to him; though not without letting him understand, The good Company she had lately kept had greatly enlarged her Opinion of herself; and she should, for the future, not judge of the Honour or Merit of any one from a fine Appearance: And, addressing herself to Miss *Freeborn*, added, "I do not remember a

K

"laced

“laced Coat in your Family ; and yet
“the Gentlemen, who do us the Honour to
“give us their Company, are Men, I believe,
“of as much Merit and Honour as any in
“the Town.” “Indeed,” answered Miss
Freeborn, “I think they are : Yet, I assure
“you, they can dress very gaily sometimes ;
“but then it is to do Honour more to others,
“than to shew themselves. I have seen both
“Mr. *A*—— and Mr. *Heartly* extravagant-
“ly rich in their Cloaths, upon publick
“Occasions.”

ALL this Time Mrs. *Lamour* was using all her female Cunning, to insinuate herself into my Favour ; flattering herself, that I might be prevailed upon to take her and her Daughter into my Family, as I found she was no Stranger to my Intention of settling in the Country. But it was an idle Notion, for I had not the same Motive of Compassion to influence me in Regard to them, as I had to my Brother : On the contrary, she ought to have thought herself well off, that her Conduct was over-looked ; but it is the Nature of People in her Way of Life, to endeavour to grasp at every Thing.

I TOLD her, very shortly, in answer to her distant Hints, That my Income was not very large ; but I had some Thought of disposing of her Daughter, in a Manner, I believed, she would not dislike, if I could bring it to bear ; and then, as I did not doubt but she had
saved

saved some Money out of her private Dealings, I would advise her to retire and endeavour to make her Peace, as I could not be insensible she must think she was not over-prepared to die. She seemed struck all on an Heap; and, thinking we had been long enough in her Company, I conducted the young Ladies back.

MR. *Freeborn* was astonished at her Impudence, as he expressed it, when he heard she would willingly have come and kept my House. He and I went the next Day into the Country, where I was surprized to see the Money he had laid out, in altering and fitting up his House. Every Thing was ready for his Reception, as it was at mine, and *Heartly's* was very elegantly fitted up.

WHEN we came back, he entirely resign'd up all his Part in Trade to Mr. *Trusty*; and *Heartly* did the same, only reserving the One Thousand Five Hundred Pounds I had given my Brother, in his Name. *Heartly* had a new Coach and four Horses, and Mr. *Freeborn* had a new Chariot; and it was agreed, that immediately after the Ceremony of the Marriage was over, we should all bid adieu to the Town.

HEARTLY told me, my Time grew short; and, if I did not expedite my Scheme, *Gayton* would slip through my Fingers; "For
" I am," he said, "credibly informed, that
" he has for some Time made his Addresses

“ privately to a young Lady, of considerable Fortune, in this Neighbourhood, and it is thought that Matters are as good as agreed.” “ I had not forgot him, I assure you,” I answered ; “ but you must begin with him, and, since he is carrying his Matters so secretly, even let it be To-morrow Morning.” To which he agreed, and desired me to give him his Part, and he would readily study it: Adding, “ I will not fail a Tittle, I shall want no Prompter.”

C H A P. XVIII.

Mr. Gayton's great Astonishment at the Occasion of Mr. Heartly's Visit. Miss Freeborn greatly alarm'd. A new Scheme of Gayton's to avoid Punishment. It Ends unfortunately.

IN the Morning I went to Mrs. *Lamour's*, and again desired my agreeable Sister to keep herself ready for the happy Minute, when Mr. *Gayton* was to be her own. She shook her Head, and told me, She had been informed from *Gayton* the Night before, that he was really going to be married, and only waited to have us gone out of Town: Saying farther, “ He has promised to settle Two Thousand Pounds upon me, and will come and see me as often as he can. He would not have told me, had I not roundly taxed him with it, as I heard of it by mere
“ Chance ;

“ Chance ; and threatened him to come to
 “ *Heartly*, and expose his whole Proceed-
 “ ings.” “ Well,” I replied, “ take no No-
 “ tice to your Mother, only be not out of
 “ the Way. I have heard of it too ; but
 “ he may yet be disappointed, as cunning
 “ as he is.

I THEN went to *Heartly*, and told him in
 what Manner I would have him proceed ; and
 I would wait there with the Ladies, ’till he
 returned. Just as we had done settling the
 Point, they came down to Breakfast ; and
Heartly, putting on his Sword, went his Way.
 “ Lord Mr. A——,” cried Miss *Freeborn*,
 “ where is he going ? why do you not go
 “ with him ? “ Miss,” I replied, “ he has
 “ no Occasion for me. I stay here to be an
 “ Hostage for his safe Return.” “ Well,”
 she answered, “ but what does he do with
 “ that nasty Sword ?—I hate the Sight of it.”

I DESIRED her to make herself perfectly
 easy — That he was gone to prepare Mr.
Gayton a little, for what was to follow ; and she
 might assure herself that, if I had appre-
 hended any Danger, I should not have put
 him upon going, or at least not have let him
 gone alone—That, upon finding *Gayton* was
 going to be married to Miss *Vere*, we had re-
 solved to put one Rub in his Way. “ To Miss,
 “ *Vere* !” she answered ; “ who could recom-
 “ mend him there ? She is a great Fortune,
 “ and is a young Lady of very good Sense.”

“ Indeed, Miss, I do not know,” I replied,
 “ but Mr. *Heartly* had it from very good
 “ Hands, and I am told Matters are all
 “ agreed upon, so we had no Time to
 “ lose.” However, all I could say could not
 hinder my perceiving she was under a good
 deal of Concern; which Miss *Williams* like-
 wise observed, and, to divert her Thoughts,
 asked her if I might not see the Wedding-
 Cloaths?

WHILE we were looking them over, and
 I was praising their good Tastes in their
 Fancies *Heartly* came gaily in, and dispersed
 all the Gloom in an Instant. “ So, Sir,”
 I said, “ you have made a quick Return;
 “ is he not at Home?” “ Yes,” he an-
 swered, “ I have seen him; and, I believe,
 “ have left him not a little dissatisfied with my
 “ Visit. He has enough to meditate upon
 “ for this Day. I found him at Breakfast,
 “ and told him I was sorry he had obliged
 “ me, by his own Misconduct, to visit him, in
 “ order to do myself Justice. He replied, He
 “ hoped he had given me no Offence: That
 “ he had always endeavoured to live with
 “ me as one Gentleman should with another,
 “ and should be glad if I would explain my-
 “ self farther, that if he had done any Thing
 “ unknowingly amiss, at which I took Of-
 “ fence, he might acknowledge it; as, in
 “ his Opinion, it was a greater Dishonour to
 “ persist in a Fault, than to confess it.” I
 answered,

answered, I was very glad to find his Sentiments so just, and, had his Actions been conformable to them, I had not called upon him in that Manner; but that I was much imposed upon, and he very much wronged, if he had not occasion'd an anonymous Letter to be sent to me, with some mean Insinuations in it; and that I was farther assured, he had meditated a base Design upon Miss *Freeborn*: That, in short, I was fully informed, That he proposed setting Mr. *A*— and myself to fight, and was the sole Occasion of the Reflections and Aspersions Miss *Freeborn* underwent; and that, as I was fully assured of the Falsity of them, I was doing her all the Justice in my Power; yet I thought my Honour concerned, and I was obliged to call him to Account for such Behaviour. To all which, he replied, in a very confused Manner, That the Accusation was very heavy; but that he was perfectly innocent, and hoped I would let him know the Author of such Calumny. “Sir,” I said, “I am not to be trifled with—I have Proof sufficient. To give you a little Time to recollect yourself, I will call upon you again To-morrow Morning, and then I shall expect you to prove yourself innocent, or give me the Satisfaction I shall demand: And, upon coming away, added, I shall bring a Friend with me, so pray be prepared.”

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 “ but Mr. *Heartly* had it from very good
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 “ agreed upon, so we had no Time to
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 “ me as one Gentleman should with another,
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 “ self farther, that if he had done any Thing
 “ unknowingly amiss, at which I took Of-
 “ fence, he might acknowledge it; as, in
 “ his Opinion, it was a greater Dishonour to
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" I AM glad you are come back safe,"
 I said, " for we have been a little cast down,
 " on Account of that nasty Sword dangling
 " there. You may lay it by for To-day."
 " Aye, and To-morrow too," he replied,
 " I believe ; but I understand you. What,
 " Miss, pray had you to be afraid of now ?"
 he said to Miss *Freeborn*. " You must ex-
 " cuse me," she answered ; " I cannot help
 " it—I shall be as uneasy To-morrow—I
 " wish it was all over. Is there no Way to
 " punish him, without being obliged to ha-
 " zard yourselves ?" " I do not think,
 " Miss," I said, " we shall run any Hazard
 " at all, even if he should find Resolution
 " enough to put it to the Tryal. He,
 " covered with Consciousness of his own
 " Guilt ; Mr. *Heartly*, with Justice on his
 " Side—There is no Reason to be uneasy—
 " Take my Word, it will come to nothing
 " but a Wedding." " Well," she answered,
 " I will promise to be easy, if you will pro-
 " mise to let me know as soon as possible,
 " and not keep me in Suspence ; for then
 " my Fears will be at work, and I shall
 " imagine the worst." " You shall know,"
 said *Heartly*, " I promise, whether he will
 " fight or not ; and we will not stay."

It was natural for any young Lady, as
 well as Miss *Freeborn*, to have many Fears,
 where there was any Reason to apprehend
 fighting, and one of the Parties was so much
 in

in Favour, as to be preferred to the Honour of her Bed in a few Days: But I would not have engaged *Heartly* at all in the Affair, if I could have found one Reason to induce me to believe *Gayton* had any of that Kind of Blood in him. I really looked upon him as a Man capable of any bad Action, without Spirit to brave it to the last. There are Men bad enough to act a villainous Part, and daring enough afterwards to maintain it at the Hazard of their Lives, but *Gayton* did not appear to me to be one of them. He was only an artful Designer; bad in his Principles, without Courage in his Heart.

WHEN Mr. *Freeborn* came Home to dine, he told us, He had heard of the Morning Affair from Mr. *Vere*. “ From Mr. *Vere* ! “ Sir,” said *Heartly*, “ how came he to know “ of it ? ” “ I cannot resolve you in that,” answered Mr. *Freeborn*; “ but Mr. *Vere* came “ to me just now, and told me, he was sorry to “ hear there was a little Difference between “ two Gentlemen he had a great Regard for. “ I replied, I had heard nothing of it: Up- “ on which he said, our intended Sons-in-Law “ are going to play the Fool; and I think, “ for our Daughters sakes, we ought, if “ we can, to prevent them. Mr. *Gayton* ab- “ solutely denies what is laid to his Charge, “ and declares some ill-natured Person has “ maliciously set Mr. *Heartly* upon him, “ with whom he has lived in great Harmo-

ny. It is Pity, Mr. *Freeborn*, such Things
 should be suffered ; and I hope you will
 act in Concert with me, and make them
 Friends again. I answered, Sir, I have a
 very great Esteem for Mr. *Heartly*, and I
 think such Things ought to be prevented ;
 yet there are such Provocations as a Man of
 Honour cannot well, as the Opinion of the
 World is, redress by Law. I will promise
 this, that Mr. *Heartly* and he shall be
 Friends again, if the Affair is only of a
 trifling Nature. But Mr. *Vere*, you are
 not insensible how my Daughter was treat-
 ed by the Town. I am afraid Mr. *Gayton*
 knew more of that Affair, than at your
 House he chuses to own : But I will use
 my good Offices, and you shall hear from
 me."

" THIS is a droll Affair," I said. " I
 have, in my own Mind, set *Gayton* down
 for a Coward, but I could not think he was
 so great a Fool. What a Place he has
 chose to expose himself in ! When Miss
Vere comes to know the Whole, what an
 excellent Opinion she will have of her in-
 tended Husband !" " A very bad one I
 assure you," Miss *Freeborn* answered : " I
 sometimes visit her, and I am mistaken if
 this mean Behaviour will not raise her Re-
 sentment. I have my Fears, but Spirit
 becomes a Man."

We were very merry at Mr. *Gayton's* Con-
 duct,

duct, yet he had not done with us ; for, in the Afternoon, Mr. *Vere* and his Daughter came. The Ladies all withdrew, and Mr. *Vere* came in to us. “ Gentlemen, your Servant,” he begun. “ Mr. *Heartly*, I am glad to see you and your Friend so agreeable again. My Visit, with Mr. *Freeborn*’s Pardon, is this Time to you—I would make up Differences—I have been young and warm myself—But, Sir, in your unhappy Affair, how it would have grieved either of you, had the other been killed ? You are, thank God, alive ; and I make no Doubt, sorry for falling out.” “ Sir,” answered *Heartly*, “ I never think of my Weakness, in suffering myself to be imposed upon, but I am heartily sorry for it ; and had Mr. *A*—fell, and I had discovered the Imposition, I had never been myself any more. But as the Plotter of the Mischief is detected, in Justice to myself, an injured young Lady, and my Friend, I am obliged to call him to an Account. I am sorry to say Mr. *Gayton* is the Man. I could not have suspected him ; nor, without good Proof, had I taxed him with it. I have his own Hand to prove his Villainy.” “ Well, well,” Mr. *Vere* replied, “ I find he has not used you so well as he ought—But he is sorry for it—He is ready to ask your Pardon—Life is precious, and Duelling dangerous—I have talked a good deal

“ deal to him, and I have prevailed upon
 “ him to submit—It is better than fighting.
 “ You are, Mr. *Heartly*, a Gentleman of
 “ good Sense; and just, as well as himself,
 “ upon the Point of Marriage—And Honour
 “ must be satisfied with Submission, it re-
 “ quires no more. I have brought a Letter
 “ from Mr. *Gayton*, which, I hope, will
 “ prove satisfactory. Mr. *Freeborn* and your
 “ Friend shall determine between you.”
Heartly took it, and saying, “ We are all
 “ concerned in the Contents,” read aloud :

“ SIR,
 “ I AM sorry to lie under the Imputation
 “ of having occasion'd the Quarrel be-
 “ tween you and Mr. *A*—; yet, rather than
 “ be again the Cause of more Uneasiness, I
 “ am ready to ask your Pardon, and hope
 “ that will be deemed a sufficient Atone-
 “ ment. Accordingly, Sir, I do ask your
 “ Pardon, and desire we may live hereafter
 “ upon good Terms.

“ I am,

“ Sir,

“ Your very humble Servant,

“ *THO. GAYTON.*”

“ It is very well, Sir,” said *Heartly*,
 “ this must do; for I find he has no Stomach
 “ to fight, and I cannot compel him: Yet I
 “ think you ought to be acquainted with my
 “ Reasons

“ Reasons for proceeding as I did, and if you
 “ can then esteem him worthy of your Alli-
 “ ance, your Daughter will be extremely hap-
 “ py in an Husband.” When Mr. *Vere* had
 heard his whole Contrivance, he expressed the
 utmost Detestation at it ; and, when he had
 read *Gayton’s* Letter to Miss *Lamour*, he cried,
 “ My Son-in-Law ! No, no, I assure him,
 “ he shall have none of my Daughter : And
 “ I believe that will not be disagreeable to
 “ her, for she has received him rather in
 “ Obedience to my Request, than her own
 “ Inclinations.”

“ Sir,” I said, “ since you are convinced
 “ of his Villainy, and declare a proper Re-
 “ sentment, I can tell you I have a Crow to
 “ pull with him, for the Favour he has done
 “ me, in the Respect he has showed to my
 “ Sister. My Honour is concerned to make
 “ him repair her’s. His mean Submission
 “ will not serve me.” “ You may do as
 “ you please, Sir,” he answered ; “ I have
 “ no farther Concern with him. I have suc-
 “ ceeded now ; and I shall only tell him
 “ that, and forbid him visiting my Daughter
 “ any more.” Then desiring his Daughter
 might be acquainted he was ready to go,
 Miss and Miss *Freeborn* came down. “ Sir,”
 said she, “ I have heard so much of Mr.
 “ *Gayton*, that I hope, when you know it, I
 “ may be at Liberty to give him a Denial.”
 “ I know too much,” he answered ; “ you
 “ have

“ have my Leave to follow your own Inclinations ;” and, taking their Leave, returned to Mr. *Gayton*, with an Account to dissipate his Fears. I told *Heartly* the young Ladies had had it all out, and *Gayton* would find his Folly in sending them upon his Errands.

BEFORE I went Home, I went to Mrs. *Lamour's*, and was informed by my Sister that *Gayton* had been there, greatly out of Humour ; and, by what she could learn from his Discourse, he had missed his Wife, and some one had told Miss *Vere* that he kept *A—'s* Sister. “ D—n his Sister,” he said, “ I never knew he had one : Though it would please me to plague him—They have exposed me finely : Though I cannot imagine how they came to suspect me—Miss *Vere* knows every Thing that was done !” “ Let him fret,” I said, “ I shall fret him more To-morrow Morning ; as long as you did not undeceive him, it is no Matter. But be you sure to be ready ; I intend you shall change your Name within a Day or two.” “ I cannot believe you,” she answered ; “ and *Gayton* proposes to go to *France*, and has offered to take me with him.”

C H A P. XIX.

The Author visits Mr. Gayton. His Reception. Gayton's Submission and Marriage. A strange Picture of Matrimony. Gayton and his Wife go into Yorkshire. Mr. Freeborn bears of a great Stranger. Her Arrival, and the Joy it occasions.

IN the Morning Mr. Reddy called me up. He was come just to see his Friends, thank them for their Kindness, and take his Leave, “Reddy,” I said, “I am glad of your Success, and look upon your coming at this Time as a good Omen. I was just thinking upon a Wedding, and was a little at a Loss how to get a Parson. I desire you will go for one, and take him with you to Mrs. Lamour’s. Keep him there ’till I come, and then you shall know more.”

WHEN I parted from him, I waited upon Mr. Gayton, who received me very complaisantly; and was, as he pleased to tell me, very glad to see me. “Sir,” I said, “I hope, as you are a Gentleman, you will not be against giving me Satisfaction, in a Point I am greatly injured in.” “Satisfaction!” “Sir,” he cried, “what Satisfaction! What have I done to you! Am I to fight every Body? I have asked Mr. Heartly’s Pardon, and the Affair is all over; sure that is Satisfaction enough—I can give no other.”

“MR

“MR. *Gayton*,” I answered, “I have no-
 “thing to say to what has passed between
 “Mr. *Heartly* and you. He is satisfied, and
 “that Affair is ended. I am come upon
 “another Account: You have injured my
 “Sister.” “Your Sister!” he cried; “for
 “God’s sake, do not perplex me. I know
 “no Sister you have: I was told some such
 “Thing at Mr. *Vere*’s, and think it an idle
 “Tale.” It is a true tale,” I replied. “You
 “know me better, I hope, than to think me
 “capable of spreading idle Tales. This is
 “true, Mr. *Gayton*, and asking Pardon will
 “not do here: She must have Justice done
 “her, and I must see it done. You have
 “long practiced, and been very successful,
 “Sir, excuse the Harshness of the Expression
 “I am obliged to use, in Villainy. Your
 “Heart is full of Deceit, and your Mouth of
 “Perjury: But I am not to be imposed upon,
 “as you did upon the good old Gentleman,
 “whose Daughter you ruin’d, expos’d, and
 “jeeringly left—My Sister must have a pro-
 “per Satisfaction. You must marry her,
 “Sir.” “Your Sister!” he answered,
 “and I must marry! I do not know your
 “Sister, Sir: Pray who is she?” “Miss *La-*
 “*mour*, Mr. *Gayton*,” I said, “is my Sister;
 “and I hope you dare not deny your too
 “great Intimacy with her. You would
 “have married her to Mr. *Reddy*, and I
 “think she will make you full as good a
 “Wife.

“ Wife. She is a fashionable Lady, and you
 “ are a fashionable Gentleman : So, Sir, give
 “ me your Answer ; or, by my Father’s
 “ Honour and my own”— “ Pray, Sir, be
 “ not so hasty,” he replied : This requires
 “ some Consideration—some Time. I have
 “ no Objection to your Alliance, but there
 “ is no Reason for hurrying so fast.” “ Sir,”
 I answered, “ there requires no more
 “ Time to repair her Honour, than you took
 “ to ruin it, and I shall not wait your Re-
 “ turn from *France*—I tell you I am not to
 “ be deceived by you.” “ indeed,” he
 said, “ I will not deny my Intimacy with
 “ Miss *Lamour*, but I did not know she was
 “ your Sister : I had no Thought or Intenti-
 “ on to injure you.” “ What you thought,”
 I replied, “ or what was your Intention, avails
 “ little to the present Purpose. She proves
 “ to be my Sister—she is injured—and I
 “ ought, and will see her redressed. If you
 “ expect to be treated like a Gentleman,
 “ you must go with me now to the *Commons*
 “ and take out a Licence, for I will not trust
 “ you out of my Sight ; or you may refuse,
 “ and”—“ Sir, I do not refuse,” he answer-
 ed—“ I will go with you—I am proud of be-
 “ ing allied to you.” “ Why then, Mr.
 “ *Gayton*,” I said, “ we are Friends again,
 “ and I hope we shall long continue so.”

WHEN he was dressed we went and got
 the Licence, and I let him know Mr. *Reddy*
 and

and a Parson were waiting at Mrs. *Lamour's*, and we would have the Ceremony perform'd immediately. In short, he put a good Face on the Matter, and consented.

As soon as I had seen them married, I went and ordered a very handsome Dinner from a neighbouring Tavern, and proceeded to Mr. *Freeborn's*, not a little pleased with my Management. "What pleases you?" said *Heartly*; "you seem very much in Humour." "I am always pleased," I said, "in contributing to other People's Happiness. I am come to invite this good Family to Mr. *Gayton's* Wedding-Dinner." "When! when!" Miss *Freeborn* asked. "To-day, Miss," I replied; "at Four o'Clock. I have given Miss *Lamour* away this Morning. My Sister is now Mrs. *Gayton*." "Nothing is impossible, I find," said Mr. *Freeborn*: "I begun to doubt your keeping your Promise. How does he relish Matrimony?" "I do not believe," I answered, "it is very agreeable to him. Fear prevailed more than Love in this Marriage. I was obliged to be pretty rough with him. When he found I was not to be put off, he grew complying; and I gave him no Opportunity of getting from me, 'till I had fixed him for Life." "May we go, Sir?" said Miss *Williams*. "Yes, yes, by all Means," Mr. *Freeborn* replied. "Go, get ready; I will go too."

I LET my Brother know I should expect him there ; and, taking *Heartly* along with me, we returned to Mrs. *Lamour*'s. She was full of her Thanks for the Provision I had made for her Daughter, so much beyond all Expectation. *Gayton* seemed very grave, and Marriage had already visibly lowered his Gaiety : But then my Sister was all alive, and her Spirits had risen in Proportion as his fell. The supple Mistress was rising apace into the tyrannic Wife. This was easily perceiv'd by *Heartly* and me, and *Gayton* seemed not to take a little Notice of it ; and in his Heart, I believe, sincerely wished his Wife at the D—l. He had Time now to reflect upon all his Villainy, and saw his Punishment for Life before his Eyes.

BETWEEN Three and Four Mr. *Freeborn* and his Family came, and passed their Compliments of Joy upon the happy Pair. Miss *Williams*, to teize *Gayton*, when he saluted her, sighed and whispered, loud enough to be heard by Miss *Freeborn* and me, " Oh ! the " Inconstancy of Man !" *Gayton* took it, as she designed he should ; and imagining she yet felt some Tenderness for him, answered softly, " Is it possible !—I am undone !" This was an artful Piece of Management in her, and helped to increase the Vexation *Gayton* already had enough of.

MR. *Reddy* was very prolix upon the Accomplishments of his intended Wife, and took
great

great Pains to place her in just an opposite Light to Mrs. *Gayton*, contributing a good deal to keep up the Spirits of the Company, the Bridegroom being the only grave Person in the Room. Miss *Williams's* Exclamation had thrown him into a deep Reverie, out of which all the Endearments of his Wife could not draw him.

ABOUT Nine in the Evening we returned to Mr. *Freeborn's*, and I asked Miss *Williams* how she could play upon *Gayton* so severely? saying, "You have made him mad. He believes you in earnest." "I am glad of it," she answered; "I said what I did, with Design to mortify him. I owed him something for his good Intentions towards me." "Well then," said Miss *Freeborn*, "you have paid him, I am sure."

IN the Morning I went to Mrs. *Lamour's*, and found the Drums saluting the new-married Couple. When I entered the House I saw every Thing in Confusion, and the ParLOUR Floor was covered with broken Glass and China. Mrs. *Lamour* came to me, saying, "Sir, you seem surprized, and you may well be so. We had terrible Doings this Morning—Such Confusion! If this be Marriage, Lord help me!"

UPON enquiring farther I found that, after we were gone, *Gayton* went out, saying, He would be back presently: That Twelve o'Clock came, and he did not return; upon which

which his Wife had a Coach called, and could not be persuaded from going to look for him: That, being pretty well acquainted with his Haunts, she had found him in a loose House somewhere, and brought him Home about Three in the Morning: That they quarrelled, and, in their Anger, had done all the Mischief I saw.

WHILE she was telling me this, my Sister *Gayton* came down: "So, Madam," I said, "you begin to show your Temper betimes." "No sooner, I assure you," she replied, "than was necessary—A filthy Fellow! to leave me to go to his Wh—es!—But I have mauled his Minx, and exposed him — I will make him know I am his Wife, and make him keep at Home, or he shall lead the Life of a Dog. A fine Gentleman indeed! No sooner were his Friends gone, but he whips away to a Bawdy-House, and there I found him and his Madam in Bed together—I guessed where he was got. But we have made it up—He has promised, he will never be seen there again; and he had best keep his Word, for he shall not find Mrs. *Gayton* the easy Fool Miss *Lamour* was."

I REALLY believed her; and, asking if Mr. *Gayton* was stirring? "Yes," she answered, "he is coming." He seemed a little confounded at my being there; but, as I had no Business to meddle between Man and Wife,

I took

I took no Notice of what had been told me, and we breakfasted pretty agreeably together: After which he signified, he had something to say to me; and, following him into another Room, he begun, "I have no Reason
 " to blame you, for interesting yourself on
 " the Behalf of your Sister; but, I assure you,
 " I can scarce bring myself to endure her.
 " I am married, it is true; but she is already
 " jealous, and last Night followed me to a
 " Place I was at, and has so exposed herself
 " and me, that I am determined to leave
 " the Town immediately. I have one Fa-
 " vour to beg of you; that is, to go to Mrs.
 " M——'s, in *Covent-Garden*, and get an
 " Account of what Damage Madam did in
 " her Airs last Night, that I may pay it;
 " and then I will carry her into the Country,
 " and live as well together as we can, though
 " I fear it will be but indifferently." To
 which I replied, That I was sorry that either
 of them gave Cause for Uneasiness, and I
 would speak to my Sister: That I approved
 of his Resolution of going from Town, and,
 if he would forget the Intimacy there had
 been between him and Miss *Lamour*, and
 would manage his Pleasures, if he would not
 quit them, with a little more Discretion, they
 might lead a quiet Life, if not one so happy
 as might be expected in a married State; and
 it would be great Imprudence in either of
 them

them, to let their Neighbours or Servants perceive they hated each other. He said, He would follow my Advice, and it should be Mrs. *Gayton's* own Fault if he did not treat her with Respect.

FROM him I went to the Bagnio, where I was entertained with a long Story of the great Disturbance there had been, and the Damage was set at Thirty-five Pounds. I told the Mistress to say no more about it, and I would bring her the Money.

WHEN I returned, *Gayton* was glad it was no worse; for, he said, he expected a much larger Demand: "For your good Sister," he added, "spared nothing that would give Way to her Anger;" and, giving me the Money, I carried it to the old Matron; who was pleased at receiving it, but expressed great Concern upon Account of Miss *Sophy*, who was terribly cut with a Glass Bottle, and was under a Surgeon's Hands. I told her, I would acquaint Mr. *Gayton* with it, and I made no Doubt but he would find a Way to satisfy Miss, rather than his Wife should be exposed. Aye," she replied, "he is a good-natured Creature. I little thought he would have married that *French* Doll, he has been so often with at my House. She used then to be all Submission, and so good-humoured—But Marriage has altered her strangely!"

I FOUND

I FOUND *Gayton* and Mr. *Reddy* at the Coffee-House. *Reddy* was come to take his Leave of me, and set out directly to be married. After he was gone, I mentioned Miss *Sophy* to *Gayton*; who said, He would step and make it up with her, and return to Dinner.

I THEN went to my Sister, and told her I understood she was to go into the Country; and I thought it would be for her Interest to command her Temper, and to use her Husband with all the Tenderneſs ſhe could: Adding, "After what you had done, you could not have expected him to have married you: As he has, it is incumbent upon you to treat him with Reſpect, and endeavour, by all Means to get in his Eſteem. Your own Happineſs depends upon your Conduct; for whatever happens, now I have ſettled you ſo well, I ſhall not concern myſelf any farther. You muſt conſider him as your only Friend, for you will not find another." She promiſed a good deal, and ſeemed glad to get him into the Country; ſaying, "When I once get him from his lewd Haunts, I ſhall manage him well enough, never fear."

THEY behaved very complaiſantly to each other at Dinner, and the next Morning they went away for his Country-Houſe in *Yorkſhire*, leaving Mrs. *Lamour* to enjoy her ill-got Gains by herſelf; with whom I having no farther

farther Business, dropped my Acquaintance, to the great Satisfaction of my Brother; who never could be reconciled to her Behaviour, nor ever took any Pleasure in seeing her.

As I accompany'd *Gayton* a Day's Journey out of Town, I did not see Mr. *Freeborn's* Family 'till the Day before the Wedding; and then I found Mr. *Freeborn* was that Morning gone out of Town upon urgent Business: "But," said *Heartly*, "what it is I cannot think. He has settled with every Body, and he would not say what he went about; though I have some Notion he has heard of Miss *Steddy*. I know he is very uneasy upon your Account, and I cannot find any other Business he could have."

THE Name of Miss *Steddy* recalled her again to my Mind, and I secretly wished it might be so; not in the least doubting, but if Mr. *Freeborn* had discovered where she was, he would easily bring her back. "I wish my good Friend," I answered, "you may guess right, I should be pleased to see her." "It would," he replied, "give us all Pleasure, and To-morrow would make us all happy. But I will let the Ladies know you are here; they find so much to do, that I have little of their Company."

WHEN Miss *Freeborn* came, she told me she had a Letter for me, which her Papa had ordered her to give into my own Hands.

L.

Upon

Upon opening it, I saw it was from Miss *Steddy*.
 “ Now I believe,” I said, “ my Friend,
 “ your Conjectures are right—Here is some
 “ News of the Fugitive—She has a Mind to
 “ be re-taken. Let us hear what she has to
 “ say for herself, and how readily a Woman’s
 “ Wit can excuse her wrong Conduct. It
 “ concerns us all ; and now, Miss *Steddy*, I
 “ appoint Miss *Freeborn* and Miss *Williams*
 “ Judges of the Merit of your Defence :”
 And then read as follows.

“ S I R,
 “ A S soon as I found how greatly I had
 “ been imposed upon, I set down to
 “ beg Pardon for withdrawing myself, and
 “ writing to you in the Manner I did. I
 “ could not believe otherwise than that you
 “ was guilty, when I found Mr. *Heartly* was
 “ convinced of your dishonest Practices. I
 “ cannot express my Concern, that I was
 “ obliged to act as I did. My Regard for
 “ you would not permit me to see you—I
 “ knew my own Weakness too well: But
 “ now I am ashamed of myself—I ought to
 “ have seen you—I acted wrong. Had I
 “ thought a Moment, the Opinion I ought
 “ to have had of Miss *Freeborn* would have
 “ satisfied me Mr. *Heartly* was imposed upon,
 “ and you were both innocent. I cannot
 “ now expect to meet with that same Ten-
 “ derness from you, you have before ex-
 “ pressed

“ pressed for me—I do not deserve it. I now,
 “ only desire you to believe I acted unwill-
 “ ingly, and put a Force upon my own
 “ Inclinations, when I withdrew. I beg
 “ you to desire Miss *Freeborn* to forgive my
 “ Behaviour to her. I heartily wish Mr.
 “ *Heartly* and her happy. If I have yet any
 “ Share in your Esteem, you will favour this
 “ with an Answer. I saw Mr. *Reddy*, by
 “ mere Accident; whose Account of *Gayton’s*
 “ whole Proceedings has restored me to a
 “ greater Tranquillity of Mind than I have
 “ for some Time known. I rejoice in your
 “ Innocence, and in the Method you have
 “ contrived to punish the Author of such
 “ great Villainy. I rejoice in the perfect
 “ Harmony again subsisting between Mr.
 “ *Heartly* and you. It was the great Opinion
 “ I had of his Judgment that renders me
 “ now unhappy, in losing you. You can
 “ never forgive me—I wronged you—I
 “ wronged my own Heart, and I do not de-
 “ serve your Favour.

“ I am,

“ Your most obedient,

“ Humble Servant,

Belfont. “ ANNA-MARIA STEDDY.”

“ WELL, Ladies,” I said, “ what Judg-
 “ ment do you pass upon this Runaway?”
 They answered, “ We acquit her, and you

" must do so too. She is more to be pitied
 " than blamed." " Indeed," said *Heartly*,
 " Miss *Steddy* lays the Fault very justly upon
 " me, and I willingly take all the Blame.
 " But we are now all satisfied, and she will
 " have no Reason to complain of her Re-
 " ception. I long for Mr. *Freeborn's* Return
 " —He is certainly gone to fetch her."
 " Then," said Miss *Freeborn*, " my Papa
 " will as certainly bring her. He seemed
 " pleased, when he gave me the Letter; and
 " said, He would be at Home early : But I
 " had no Notion then, that he had heard
 " any Thing from her."

WHEN I told them how heroically jealous
 Mrs. *Gayton* had behaved at the Bagnio, to
 the Destruction of Looking-Glasses, Punch-
 Bowls, &c. and how she had cut Miss *Sophy*,
 and triumphantly brought her Husband
 Home, it occasioned a great deal of Merri-
 ment. " Lord," said Miss *Williams*, it is a
 " Wonder he did not beat her; I should
 " have been afraid of being killed." " In-
 " deed, Miss," I replied, " of the two, I
 " believe her to be the better Boxer. She is a
 " very Virago, when she is quite angry; and
 " that was surely as great an Affront, as he
 " could have contrived to have put upon
 " he. To visit Miss *Sophy* upon his Wedd-
 " ing-Night, would have provoked one of a
 " meeker Temper than Mrs. *Gayton*. It
 " was very slighting Usage, but she made
 " him

“ him pay pretty handsomely for it.” “ This
 “ is,” said *Heartly*, “ the only Part of her
 “ Conduct I think will bear defending. She
 “ showed the true Spirit of an *English* Wife.
 “ He will take more Care for the future,
 “ and not be so open in his Vices.” “ They
 “ are gone,” I answered, “ into the Coun-
 “ try. He is ashamed, after what has hap-
 “ pened, to stay here, and she is glad to
 “ get him out of Town; and, if they have
 “ but common Prudence, they may pass
 “ Life away tolerably, for we must think he
 “ is married against his Inclination: And
 “ though, I believe, she loves him, she will
 “ not bear any Reflections from him; she
 “ quite forgets Miss *Lamour*, in Mrs. *Gay-*
 “ *ton*. But pray, if I may be allowed to
 “ ask, how have you regulated the Wedd-
 “ ing?” “ Indeed,” replied *Heartly*, “ I
 “ am almost a Stranger to what is to be
 “ done. Miss *Freeborn*, pray inform us
 “ who is to be there? and where we are to
 “ dine?” “ You know,” she answered,
 “ as much as I—my Papa has ordered every
 “ Thing. But you ask such odd Questions.”
 “ I can resolve you,” said Miss *Williams*.
 “ Mr. *A*—— is to be there, and my Mam-
 “ ma, and myself; and we are to dine at
 “ Home, and afterwards all go into the
 “ Country.” “ I fancy, Miss,” I replied,
 “ you have left out one of the Company.”
 “ No, indeed I have not,” she answered;

“ for Mr. *Freeborn*, and Miss, and Mr. *Heartly*, are supposed on course.” “ That is very true, Miss,” I said, “ but you have left out Miss *Steddy*; for I promise you, if she should come To-night, I shall expect her at Church To-morrow. Her Punishment shall be to be married; that was *Gayton*’s, and that shall be her’s.” “ How pleased I shall be!” said Miss *Freeborn*; “ I dare say she will consent.”

ABOUT Seven o’Clock Mr. *Freeborn* came. He was very glad, he said, to find me there, for he had some News for me as he went out upon my Account. “ We guessed so, Sir,” I answered; “ and, pray, what says the Lady? We were in Hopes she was with you.” “ Indeed, I believe,” he replied, “ she has suffered most; and, since it is so agreeable to you, she is above Stairs, but I did not think it proper to introduce her at once. I cannot persuade her to believe you have the same Regard for her, you had. She has always answered me to that Point, She knows your Spirit, and you cannot esteem her as you did: And, Mr. *Heartly*, she blames you; and herself, for minding you.” “ I give her Leave,” he replied; “ but, as I have occasion’d her this Uneasiness, I will take upon me to make her easy again—I will fetch her down.” “ Do so,” said Mr. *Freeborn*, “ and I will be with you presently.”

WHEN

WHEN *Hearty* brought Miss *Steddy* to the Parlour Door, I heard him say, "Miss, your Apprehensions are now wrong; your Presence was only wanted to make us all perfectly happy"—And, putting her in, went after Mr. *Freeborn*. I met her, and said, "My dear *Clarinda*, I am heartily glad to meet you here once more." She fell on my Neck, and replied, "Your Goodness kills me—I have been greatly to blame." "It is forgot," I answered; "nor was you so much in Fault as you think. We are met again, and if you please To-morrow, as Miss *Freeborn* is to be married, may make you mine." "Is that," she said, "all!—This Minute—When you please—I have no Will, but yours—I am ready, when Miss is. How meanly I have acted! and how much beyond my Desert am I rewarded!"

WE were soon joined by the rest of the Family, who were sincere in their Expressions of their Joy that she was returned. Miss *Freeborn* asked her, If she knew the Punishment I had intended for her? "Yes," Miss, she answered, "and I submit to it."

C H A P. XX.

Miss Steddy's Account of what Occurrences happen'd to her, during her Absence. A very odd Story. Two Weddings. The Conclusion.

IT was no difficult Matter, to perceive the Satisfaction I felt at her Presence was real and sincere; nor was it less visible that she was perfectly pleased, in being again among us. As People in this Situation are too apt to be too particular to each other, which, however agreeable to those immediately concerned, is troublesome to others; to divert the Company with what might generally affect us all, I desired her to favour us with an Account, how her Time had passed upon her Hands since she left us. This she readily consented to, and immediately begun.

“ WHEN I found myself under the absolute Necessity, as I thought, of going away, I never took Time to reflect whether I should go; but, following my Resolution, and full of female Resentment, went and hired a Chariot and Four. The Owner asked me how far it was to go? This unexpected Question startled me; but, recovering myself, I answered, to *Staines*.

“ WHEN I came to the Stone's-End, I called to the Coachman, and desired him
“ to

“ to be expeditious, promising to pay him
 “ according to his Haste. The Man very
 “ obligingly, without stopping, hurried in
 “ about an Hour and an Half to the farther
 “ End of *Hounslow*; during which Time,
 “ my Thoughts were so employ’d, that I
 “ never spoke one Word to my Maid. The
 “ Coachman told me, he would only just
 “ give his Horses a Bit of Hay and a little
 “ Water, and go on.

“ WHEN we came to *Belfont*, I saw a Bill
 “ of Lodgings upon a pretty, neat House,
 “ and called to him to stop; and then sent my
 “ Maid to see what Rooms they had, as I
 “ fancied that would be a better Place than
 “ *Staines*. I have often since thought, what
 “ I propos’d by going to any Town. My
 “ Maid returned, and inform’d me there
 “ were two very pretty Rooms, and every
 “ Conveniency I should want; upon which
 “ I concluded to stay there.

“ THE Landlady seem’d a very good,
 “ obliging Woman; and told me, She had
 “ a young Lady and her Maid lodged there.
 “ Indeed, she said, she is a very young
 “ Wife. She is run away with, I believe;
 “ but it is no Business of mine. Her Hus-
 “ band comes but very seldom to see her,
 “ and I am afraid she has dispos’d of herself
 “ too soon. I answer’d, I should desire to
 “ be as private as I could; my Affairs, at
 “ present, not making me fit to see Com-

pany. To which she replied, I should be my own Mistress.

“ WHEN I was in my own Apartment, I gave full Scope to my Resentment, and pleased myself, excuse me, with the Scene of Ruin and Horror Mr. A——’s violent Passion had occasioned; and for which, I flattered myself, an ignominious Death would be his Reward. But in the Midst of these Thoughts, others of a more tender Nature broke in; and I fancied him innocent, and myself imposed upon. Then my Imagination made me more unhappy, than real Guilt on his Side could have done.

“ THREE Days passed away in this confused Manner, when I settled in a melancholy Humour; and at length, by Degrees, came to be acquainted with the young Lodger. She was tall, very pretty, not sixteen Years old, and always extremely neat; but had seen so little of Company, and her Education had been so neglected, that her Conversation was rather childish and insipid, than lively and entertaining. Indeed, she was a beautiful Still-Piece.

“ HER Maid, or rather Matron, was to Appearance a very discreet, sober, well-behaved Woman, and never failed in her Attendance or Respect to her Mistress: Upon which I imagined she was placed
“ about

“ about her, and both here, that the young
 “ Lady might not be too soon introduced to
 “ the World. The Husband, I heard, was
 “ very rich, and just come to Age.

“ It was above a Week before he came,
 “ and then just as we were at Dinner. He came
 “ hollowing in with a Companion, who, by
 “ his Garb, seemed to be entirely a Depend-
 “ ent upon him. He was dressed in a green
 “ Frock laced with Gold, a stripp’d Flannel
 “ Waistcoat, neat Buckskin Breeches, Jockey
 “ Boots, a Hat flapped, with a Gold Band
 “ round it, a black Bob Wig; and, to make
 “ him quite an agreeable Figure, had as
 “ much Tobacco in his Mouth, as it could
 “ well hold. His Companion was dressed
 “ much after the same Fashion; only as the
 “ one was clean, the other’s Dress was
 “ tarnished and dirty, and appeared to be
 “ the Cast-cloaths of his Associate.

“ The Husband, when he entered, cried,
 “ So *Sophy*; I am come, you see. You
 “ thought me long, I suppose? And, then
 “ kissing her, left the Marks upon her pretty
 “ Cheeks of his half-chewed Tobacco. He
 “ then saluted us all round, eat a little, talk-
 “ ed only to his Friend of some Frolicks in
 “ Town, and immediately after Dinner
 “ went hollowing out again to a neighbour-
 “ ing Alehouse, where his Horses stood. He
 “ eyed me greatly, the little Time he stay’d;
 “ and as he was quite a new Figure to me,

“ he

“ he took more of my Notice, than I otherwise should have bestowed upon him.

“ *SOPHY*, for so I will take the Liberty to call her, did not seem concerned, nor displeased at his leaving her so soon ; but upon my asking when we might expect the Gentleman again ? innocently answered, he will hardly be back ’till Twelve. He only just comes home to Bed. Indeed, Madam, said the Maid, my Master is young, but then he is very good-natured and generous ; and as the Gentleman with him lies there, I suppose he thinks himself obliged to keep him Company. Yes, replied *Sophy*, that I believe is right : And he hath told me that Gentleman with him has spent a Power of Money, and had once the best Running-Horse in the World.

“ As this was an entire new and odd Scene to me, and helped to divert my own Thoughts, I gave great Attention to all that passed ; and quickly observed, that the Maid was gone out after the Master. As my Maid wanted something Abroad, when she came back, she privately informed me, that the Gentlemen, the Servants, the Maid, the Landlord, and two or three Country-Fellows, were singing, drinking, and smoaking as fast as they could, and seemingly in a Way to be all drunk enough ; upon which I resolved to get to my Chamber betimes. I had seen enough of the Husband

“ Husband sober, to want any more of his
 “ Company when he was otherwise : For
 “ though in his Person he was very well, his
 “ Manners and his Tobacco were odious ;
 “ especially to me, who had never been ac-
 “ customed to such disagreeable Behaviour.

“ BETWEEN Eight and Nine the Maid,
 “ pretty cheery, came back to wait on her
 “ Mistress at Supper, and said her Master
 “ would be at Home soon, but he was in
 “ pure merry Company, upon which I hur-
 “ ried away : But I need not have made
 “ such Haste, for it was full Two when he
 “ came, hollowing and whooping like a
 “ Madman. The Maid shewed him up to
 “ *Sophy's* Chamber, who, poor Thing, was
 “ fast asleep : But his Noise soon disturbed
 “ her, and, not being very cautious what he
 “ said in his Liquor, I could not avoid over-
 “ hearing him.

“ He pretended to be angry, at her go-
 “ ing to Bed so soon ; but she answered, She
 “ was very sleepy. Well, well, he replied,
 “ it is no Matter ; only I had not come so
 “ soon, but to give you some of my Com-
 “ pany, and drink a Bottle of Claret with
 “ you—But pray, who is she, who was at
 “ Dinner To-day ? Indeed, she said, I do
 “ not know. She and her Maid came t'other
 “ Day in a Chariot and Four. Some kept
 “ Mistress or other, he replied, I warrant—
 “ She looks like one—But who visits her ?

“ Nobody,

" Nobody, Sir, replied the Maid. Well,
 " well, said he, I shall know To-morrow;
 " *Harry Squander* can find her out, I'll en-
 " gage. There's not such a Fellow in *Eng-*
 " *land* to discover a private Miss as *Harry*, or
 " else he swore he should not keep him
 " Company. But here, *Moll*, bring me a
 " Glass of Brandy, before I go to Bed. But
 " stay, I have left my Tobacco-Box behind
 " me! No, here it is—Now for a Quid and
 " the Brandy, and then fill your Mistress one,
 " you Jade; and help yourself. I don't love
 " to drink alone—I am no Sot. *Sophy* in-
 " deed would have been excused, but to no
 " Purpose; and, when the finishing Glass
 " was over, his Swearing and Nonsense
 " ceas'd, and the House grew pretty quiet.

" In the Morning about Nine, *Harry*
 " *Squander* and two of our Gentleman's Ser-
 " vants, with their Horns, came; and, have-
 " ing played him a Tune or two, *Harry* came
 " up to bid him good Morrow, and know
 " how the ensuing Part of the Day was to be
 " disposed of. Harkye, *Harry*, said the
 " other, call *Moll* for the Brandy-Bottle, and
 " get up *Sophy*, and get Breakfast. I am crop-
 " sick this Morning, and a Dram will make
 " me eat.

" He was obeyed, and the Glass put
 " round — When he begun again, *Harry*,
 " do you know any Thing of her, who dined
 " below Yesterday? No, replied the other,
 " who

“ who is she? Some eloped Mistress or kept
 “ One, answered our Gentleman, I am sure.
 “ *Harry* cried out, with an Oath, I have her
 “ now—L—d *Puny*’s Mistress has eloped
 “ from him; and now I am positive this is
 “ she. I once had the Honour to dine with
 “ her at my L—d’s. Well, replied the
 “ other, say nothing—Mum’s the Word—
 “ You know what I mean — But, *Moll*,
 “ where’s *Sophy*? In the Garden, Sir, she
 “ answered. Well, you Slut, and what
 “ have you, said he, to plead for yourself?
 “ Did I not tell you I was tired of this baby-
 “ fac’d Thing! and bid you teach her to
 “ drink, get her to Town, and leave her at
 “ Mother *M*——’s? Indeed, Sir, she will
 “ not drink, she replied—She is quite fond
 “ of you—And then this is so sober an House
 “ — You had best coax her to Town your-
 “ self, and then I shall have more Liberty—
 “ It is no Fault of mine indeed. That I
 “ dare say, said *Harry Squander*—*Moll* is in
 “ the right. Well, let it be so, he answered;
 “ when I come again I will take her away,
 “ for I have taken a great Liking to her
 “ I saw here Yesterday: So mind, *Moll*, and
 “ get all the Intelligence you can again I re-
 “ turn which will be in about a Fortnight,
 “ and then I shall know how to bid for her.
 “ I HOPE, replied *Mary*, your Honour
 “ will not leave us To-day? Indeed, Madam,
 he answered, “ but I shall. What, stay two
 “ Nights

“Nights with a Girl I am tired of? No,
 “no — So mind your Hits, *Moll*, or I will
 “discard you. I am going a little round
 “the Country, but I will leave *Sophy* in good
 “Humour, fetch her away privately, and
 “then let her make the most of herself.”

HERE Miss *Steddy* was interrupted, by the
 bringing in of Supper. “Lord,” said Miss
Freeborn, “I am terribly concerned for poor
Sophy. I long to know who she is”—and
Heartly was sorry for the Interruption. Mr.
Freeborn replied, “We shall know all by and
 “by: But I cannot help remarking, the
 “miserable Figure the Companion makes;
 “and what a Necessity he is always under,
 “to have an Answer ready to every Question
 “the ‘Squire asks him, which must be
 “agreeable to his Mind, though at the Ex-
 “pence of Truth. Then he is obliged too,
 “to conform to his Manners, though at the
 “Hazard of his Health.” “True, Sir,”
 said I, “he must pimp for him, drink for
 “him, swear for him, and fight for him, if
 “there is Occasion. What a slavish Depend-
 “ence! And yet, if he did not humour his
 “Leader, he might starve for him, while a
 “more supple one would fatten at his Cost.”
Heartly observed, he had seen many young
 ‘Squires of that Cast, and had been surprized
 to see such great Sums squandered in Riot,
 upon a Set of low, illiterate People, who
 never could be of any Service, farther than
 finding

finding an Hare, or some such trifling Matter: "But," added he, "I have always
 "blamed the Parents, and imputed it to a
 "wrong Turn of Education; for what can
 "be expected from the Man, when the Boy
 "is left to his own Head, to associate himself
 "with Grooms and Coachmen? who having
 "an Interest in letting him have his own
 "Humour in every Thing, he soon becomes
 "incapable of Contradiction; and as Gentle-
 "men of Education cannot stoop to a servile
 "Compliance with all his Humours, he takes
 "to such Company as his Money can over-
 "sway, to praise every mean Action his
 "Whims hurry him into." By this Time
 we had supped, and Miss *Steddy* re-assumed
 her Story.

"You will believe me, I dare say, when
 "I tell you how much I was surprized at the
 "Discourse I over-heard; and, as I found
 "myself concerned, I summoned all my
 "Thoughts, in what Manner to act. Had
 "the Gentleman not said he was going away
 "for a Time, I had immediately quitted a
 "Place which begun to be disagreeable
 "to me: But I found I had a Fortnight
 "good, and felt not a little Concern
 "upon poor *Sophy's* Account; who now
 "really claimed my Pity, and my Assist-
 "ance, if possible. I considered her as
 "ruined, and had over-heard an iniqui-
 "tous Scheme laid to abandon her to the
 "Town.

" Town. But then as I found my Land-
 " lady was no way privy to the Affair,
 " but, on the contrary, was one *Mary* was
 " in Awe of, I resolved to acquaint her;
 " and to put it so home to *Sophy*, as to
 " get what I could out of her, and then
 " take such Measures as might preserve
 " her from the wretched Life she was now
 " doomed to.

" THE 'Squire, when he had breakfasted,
 " set out with as much Noise as he came,
 " and I took the first Opportunity to ac-
 " quaint my Landlady with what I was con-
 " strained to over-hear. She was quite asto-
 " nished, and, being a very good Woman,
 " promised me to act in every Thing as I
 " would have her; saying, She was ac-
 " quainted with a worthy Gentleman in that
 " Neighbourhood, and she was sure, if there
 " was Occasion, he would protect us from
 " any Affront from the 'Squire or his Com-
 " pany.

" THIS was a Piece of Information which
 " pleased me, and I then took Miss *Sophy* to
 " talk. I found her in the Garden alone;
 " and begun, by telling her, As I had con-
 " ceived a very great Liking to her, I was
 " sorry any Thing should happen which
 " obliged me to keep a greater Distance;
 " yet I thought it my Duty to acquaint her
 " that she might not think I altered my Be-
 " haviour towards her through Pride or Ill-
 " nature,

“ nature, but upon such Grounds as she must
 “ approve — That I had heard something
 “ in which she was interested, and which
 “ my Regard for her would not let me con-
 “ ceal ; and I must beg her to deal ingenu-
 “ ously by me, as her future Good or Ill
 “ depended upon it.

“ SHE was a good deal startled, and pro-
 “ mised me to deal freely by me ; but it is
 “ impossible to describe her Confusion, when
 “ I discovered what I had over-heard. She
 “ cried bitterly, and seemed truly sensible
 “ of her miserable Condition. Her Situ-
 “ ation was indeed shocking, and she per-
 “ ceived it. She owned, with great Hesita-
 “ tion, she was not yet married, but that
 “ she was to be as soon as Mr. N—— re-
 “ turned ; he having that Morning solemnly
 “ promised, that when he came back he
 “ would take her to *London*, and make her
 “ his Wife. My Dear, I answered, you
 “ have given too much Credit to his Words
 “ already ; and, after what I have told you,
 “ I should think you have very little Reason
 “ to believe him again : Especially when his
 “ Promise to carry you to *London* when he
 “ returns agrees so exactly with what he
 “ said to his Confederates, that he proposed
 “ to carry you, only differing in what was
 “ not proper for you to know. If you are
 “ yet so prepossessed in his Favour, I have
 “ only to wish I am deceived, and not you :
 “ But

“ But if you please to give me a true Relation in what Manner you became acquainted with him first, and what induced you to trust to his Sincerity, perhaps I may see Reason sufficient to induce me to entertain an Opinion different from my present.

“ *SOPHY* then told me, She was an only Daughter; that her Father dying when she was young, her Mother brought her up at Home with the greatest Tenderness: And, added she, I am not insensible of the Defects in myself, I think another Sort of Education had amended. I was just Fifteen when I first saw Mr. N——. He was then in Mourning for his Father, who had left him above Ninety Thousand Pounds, and had the Character of a pretty young Gentleman. I found since he took great Notice of me; for, in a little Time, this Woman who is with me found Means to give me a Letter from him, full of Compliments and Praises on my Beauty; to which she added not a little Flattery, which made me very full of myself.

“ ABOUT this Time, unluckily for me, it was hinted to me my Mamma was going to marry again, and that I was to go to a Boarding-School. I asked this Maid of mine about it, as she continually brought and carried Letters between Mr. N—— and myself, and she promised she would
“ enquire,

“ enquire, and let me know. Accordingly,
 “ the next Time, she told me a long Story,
 “ that it was true; that every Body pitied
 “ me, for my Mamma would be ruined,
 “ and I should only be sent out of the Way;
 “ that the best Advice she could give me
 “ was to listen to Mr. N——, who meant
 “ only honourably by me, and it would be
 “ better for me to trust a young Gentleman,
 “ who really loved me, than to be subject
 “ to the Will of an ill-natured Father-in-
 “ Law.

“ THESE Reasons had too much Weight
 “ with me, and, without waiting to know
 “ if my Mamma was really going to be mar-
 “ ried, I was prevailed upon one Evening
 “ to go with her. She carried me a good
 “ Way down a very bye Lane, where a Lan-
 “ dau waited, and I was hurried away some
 “ Miles, to a little Farm-House; from
 “ whence, after about three Months, I was
 “ brought here.

“ HERE she paused; and I said, my Dear,
 “ how has it happened that he has not yet
 “ married you? And, pray, tell me your real
 “ Name, and where your Mamma lives? To
 “ which she replied, He promises, from Time
 “ to Time, to marry me. My Name is *Eli-
 zabeth S——*, and my Mamma lives at
 “ *R——*. Then pray, I said, how came
 “ you to be called *Sophy*? She answered,
 “ Mr. N—— desired he might call me so;
 “ saying,

“ saying, it was a favourite Name of his.
 “ My Dear, I replied, you was very oblig-
 “ ing : But I see no Reason to alter my Sen-
 “ timents of Mr. N—— ; on the contrary,
 “ as he was a Man of so great a Fortune,
 “ had his Intentions been honourable, he
 “ might publickly have owned his Love :
 “ And as to his Reason for your change-
 “ ing your Name, it appears to me all
 “ Art to elude Enquiry. If you can trust
 “ to me, and be cautious of not letting
 “ your Maid know a Word of what has pass-
 “ ed, I am persuaded you will have Rea-
 “ son to thank yourself for being so in-
 “ genuous.

“ THIS she promised, and confessed she
 “ had now her Fears she was betrayed, but
 “ knew not what to do. I persuaded her to
 “ be easy, and took the first Opportunity to
 “ acquaint the good Mistress of the House ;
 “ and we agreed to let the Gentleman, her
 “ Friend, know the whole Affair, and take
 “ his Advice. This was done, and he ex-
 “ pressed great Concern for the young Lady ;
 “ saying her Mother lives but few Miles off.
 “ I have heard her Daughter was gone from
 “ her, and how greatly concerned she is for
 “ her Loss, but I little thought Miss was so
 “ near me. I will see her Mother To-mor-
 “ row, and put the best Face upon the Affair
 “ it will carry ; and you must not stick at
 “ varying

“ varying a little from Truth, if it is necessary.

“ Two Days after, during which Time I
 “ had fully persuaded Miss of the Favour
 “ intended her, he came again ; and informed us, He had seen the Lady, but she was
 “ inconsolable, at the Thoughts of her Daughter’s Dishonour. I said, added he, all I could
 “ to make her easy, as you must, by telling
 “ her, I was not of Opinion her Daughter
 “ had gone farther, than by being persuaded
 “ to go off with Mr. N——, and that the
 “ House she was at would admit of no bad
 “ Company : So she has promised to be here
 “ as soon as her Spirits are a little composed,
 “ and take her with her. But I must talk
 “ a little with Miss’s Maid, and frighten her
 “ out of the Country, lest her Tongue should
 “ be too long ; upon which *Mary* was called :
 “ To whom the Gentleman said, Pray who
 “ is this young Lady you wait upon here ?
 “ Tell me Truth, or you will fare very badly.
 “ She prevaricated very much, but at last
 “ out came the Whole, as Miss had told
 “ me ; with this Addition, That when Mr.
 “ N—— had first seen Miss he came to
 “ Town, and brought her from where Miss
 “ was to be carried, in order to carry on the
 “ the Intrigue : That by his Letters, and
 “ her artful Management, he succeeded ;
 “ and that Miss was, when he came back,
 “ to be thrown upon the Town. Very well!

“ very

“ very well! the Gentleman answered: Get
 “ your Things ready immediately, for by
 “ the first Carriage you shall go where you
 “ came from; and if you ever open your
 “ Lips concerning this Affair, you shall
 “ suffer for your Industry.

“ *MARY* was soon ready, and soon
 “ packed off, scared out of her Wits. Miss,
 “ who knew nothing of this, was surprized
 “ to see her Maid go away; but I thought
 “ she would have died, when she was told
 “ she might expect to see her Mamma soon.
 “ In about three Days she came, and it was
 “ the most tender, sorrowful Meeting, I
 “ ever desire to see. We palliated every
 “ Thing, as far as we could; but the
 “ good Lady, sighing continually, cry’d,
 “ I would fain believe you — But I can’t
 “ — Indeed I can’t — However, Daughter,
 “ live with me; when I am gone my
 “ Care is ended — And took her away with
 “ her.

“ WE then expressed our Fears of Mr.
 “ *N——*’s Resentment. Oh, said the Gen-
 “ tleman, leave that to me: Accordingly,
 “ he left a Letter at the House where the
 “ Squire’s Horses were put up, with orders
 “ to deliver it into his Hand, the Moment he
 “ came. He was punctually obeyed, and
 “ the vexed Mr. *N——* contented himself
 “ with threatening my Landlady; and say-
 “ ing,

“ ing, That he should have me for Half a
“ Crown in a little Time.

“ A DAY or two afterwards Mr. *Reddy*
“ coming by, accidentally saw me, and gave
“ me an Account how we had all been im-
“ posed upon by Mr. *Gayton's* Art, and of
“ the Punishment inflicted upon him. I was
“ covered with Shame for my foolish Con-
“ duct, yet thought it my Duty to let you
“ know I was no longer in an Error. Mr.
“ *Freeborn's* sudden coming filled me with
“ Hope and Anxiety at once; and, I own,
“ I am happy beyond my Deserts.” We
made various Reflections upon the Story,
but it seemed particularly to touch Miss *Wil-*
liams.

THE next Day gave Miss *Freeborn* to Mr.
Heartly, and Miss *Steddy* to me. In a little
Time after, Mrs. *Williams* and Miss went to
their own Home; while the three neigh-
bouring Families enjoy Content, and are
perfectly happy in themselves, and in their
Acquaintance with each other. Mrs. *La-*
mour spent her Money profusely upon a
Gentleman, who gallanted her while she had
any Thing left, and died in a Workhouse.
Her Daughter and Mr. *Gayton* lived very
unhappily; she growing quite a Slut, and
he living almost always from Home, or drunk
when he was there. The Belle turn'd Sla-
tern, and the Beau turn'd Sloven; every
Wench in the Country being more agreeable

242 LOVE and FRIENDSHIP.

to him than his Wife, and a Cordial to refresh her Spirits more eligible to her Taste than her Husband. *Heartly* is bless'd with two fine Children, and I am happy in one. Truth and Sincerity, Peace and Content, however banish'd from others, are to be found among our Dwellings.

F I N I S.

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